CROSSGEN COMICS
DEC 2001
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Negation
PREQUEL
Tony Bedard
and Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle
MEIKIS ROCHELLE

It only took the God-Emperor CHARON ten thousand years to conquer His entire universe and forge the stellar empire known as:

the Negation

But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities...

...and He covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

So it is that one hundred ill-fated souls have been abducted from scores of worlds across our galaxy. They have been brought to His dark realm to be watched and tested. To struggle and die.

And the answers yielded by their sacrifice will be key to the coming conquest, unless...

...unless one man sees his predicament for what it is, and turns the tables on a mad god...

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FEAR.
CONFUSION.
Is this ALL you know?
Can you even BEGIN to answer the riddle of how you came to this world?
Fear NOT, children. Though most of you will not live to see it, the truth SHALL be revealed.
And you will know that I am a WISE and GENEROUS god...
...that I only wish to COMPLETE you...
...and that I do this in the name of LOVE.

SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT ?
Oh. NOTHING. JUST THAT SAME OLD FEELING.
NOT THAT AGAIN. YOU'VE BEEN SAYING SOMEONE'S WATCHING US SINCE THE DAY WE GOT HERE.
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ADMIT YOU'RE SCARED, LIKE THE REST OF--
AHOY, PEST! SHOW YOURSELF!
GET DOWN!
AND BRING THAT FAT TROVE OF FOOD WITH YOU!

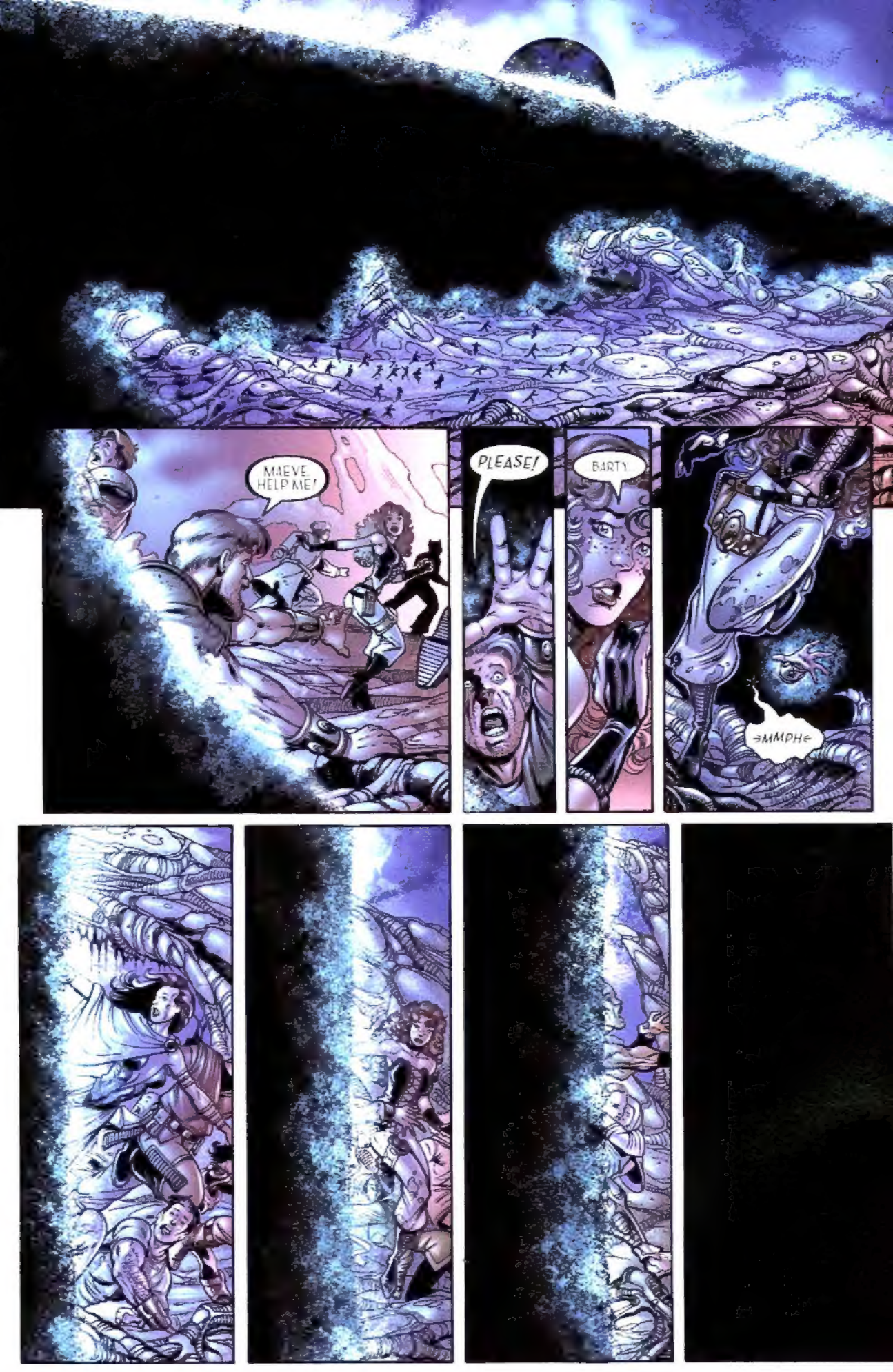
DON'T—! HE'S NOT NORMAL! YOU SAW WHAT HE CAN DO
AT EASE, ZAIDA. YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN THE FIRST RULE OF COMBAT
Huh?
WAIT HERE. YOU'LL SEE
HI, GUY. HOW'S THE HAND? YOU CHANGING THAT BANDAGE EVERY DAY?
BRING THE FOOD, NOW, AND PERHAPS I'LL NOT HAVE YOUR WENCH FOR DESSERT
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE PEST IS ABOUT TO GET HIMSELF KILLED.
HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU, LEFTY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY FOOD
LIAR! HOW ELSE COULD SON BABY STILL LIVE AFTER A FORTNIGHT IN THIS HELL?!
GIVE UP THE GRUB, OR I ROAST THE CHILD INSTEAD!

WILL YOU NOW? HAVE WE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE LAST TIME YOU FIRED UP YOUR FIVE-FINGERED BARBECUE?
OUCH.
...
DON'T FEEL EMBARRASSED. I MEAN, NOTHING IN THIS PLACE SEEMS TO WORK RIGHT! THE STARS ARE BLACK...
...THE RAIN FALLS UP...
KRAK
FIRST RULE OF COMBAT: FIREPOWER IS USELESS IF YOU CAN'T DIRECT IT.
AND IT'S HARD TO AIM WHEN YOU'RE OUT COLD, AM I RIGHT?
Unhh...DO YOU EVER... STILL YOUR TONGUE...?

YEAH!
BURN HIM!
HA!
BEHOLD!
MY HAND OF GLORY IS RESTORED!
THE WITCHFIRE NO LONGER TURNS--
--AGAINST... ME
...I...
ah...

GO ON!
DO IT!
FRY HIM!
KWOOSH
MISTER KAINE, ARE YOU *TRYING* TO SCARE ME TO DEATH?
SHOULD A *KNOWN* HE'D HAVE A THICK BRAIN-BUCKET
NIGHTWALL!

NOT AGAIN! NOT AGAIN!


MAEVE HELP ME!
PLEASE!
BART!
=MMPH=

IT'S OKAY MISTER KAINE DON'T ASK ME HOW LONG IT TOOK BUT THE NIGHTWALKERS PASSED
SPEAK W EVINLEA
MISTER KAINE PLEASE! HAVEN'T YOU BEEN ENOUGH

NOBODY SEES EVINLEA!

I WONDER IF
WAGER ON THE MAN
BEEN WATCHING
ONE HE ALWAYS SEEMS
TO BE ASKING FOR
TROUBLE
ALWAYS BRINGING UP
THE NIGHTWALL DREAMS WHEN
MOST OF US WOULD RATHER
FORGET THEM
THAT WON
PROBABLY
HEAR IT THEY RE
NOT A COUPLE
STRANGERS
LIKE THE REST
OF US
SO
WHY DRAG THAT
DEAD WEIGHT WHEN
THERE ARE SWEET
YOU AROUND
COMPLIMENT
MISTER
DEAD ALREADY
IF NOT FOR
YOU BUT
BUT THE WAY
YOU'VE BEEN LATELY
I HAVE TO KNOW
AM I PINNING MY HOPES
ON A CRAZY
I KNOW
NEVER
ASKED FOR
ANY OF
THIS!
I NEVER
ASKED TO BE
YOUR GUARDIAN
AND I DO NOT
HAVE TO EXPLAIN
MYSELF TO
ANYONE!
AAAAAAAH
AHUH
AAAAAAAH

I'M NOT RAID SEA I JUST HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS AND NOBODY'S LOOKING FOR ANSWERS OUT HERE
IT'S NOT MADNESS IT'S RECON
OUR SEARCH IS HOW DID WE ALL JUST HAPPEN TO WAKE UP ON THIS ROCK AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT WITH NO IDEA HOW WE GOT HERE
WHY WERE THERE EXACTLY ONE HUNDRED OF US TO BEGIN WITH
AND FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS AND EVEN THOUGH MOST OF US HAD NO IDEA THERE WERE OTHER WORLDS OUT THERE
A LOT OF US HAVE ABILITIES AND SHEER POWER THE LIKES OF WHICH I'VE NEVER SEEN
AND WHY DO THEY SEEM TO BACKFIRE HERE? WHY?

BASICS
NOT
SET UP?
LEARN
EVILEA
WORSHIP

TARGET
SHOOTING STARS
HAPPENS

WHY?
DREAMS
NOBODY
NATURAL
PATTERN

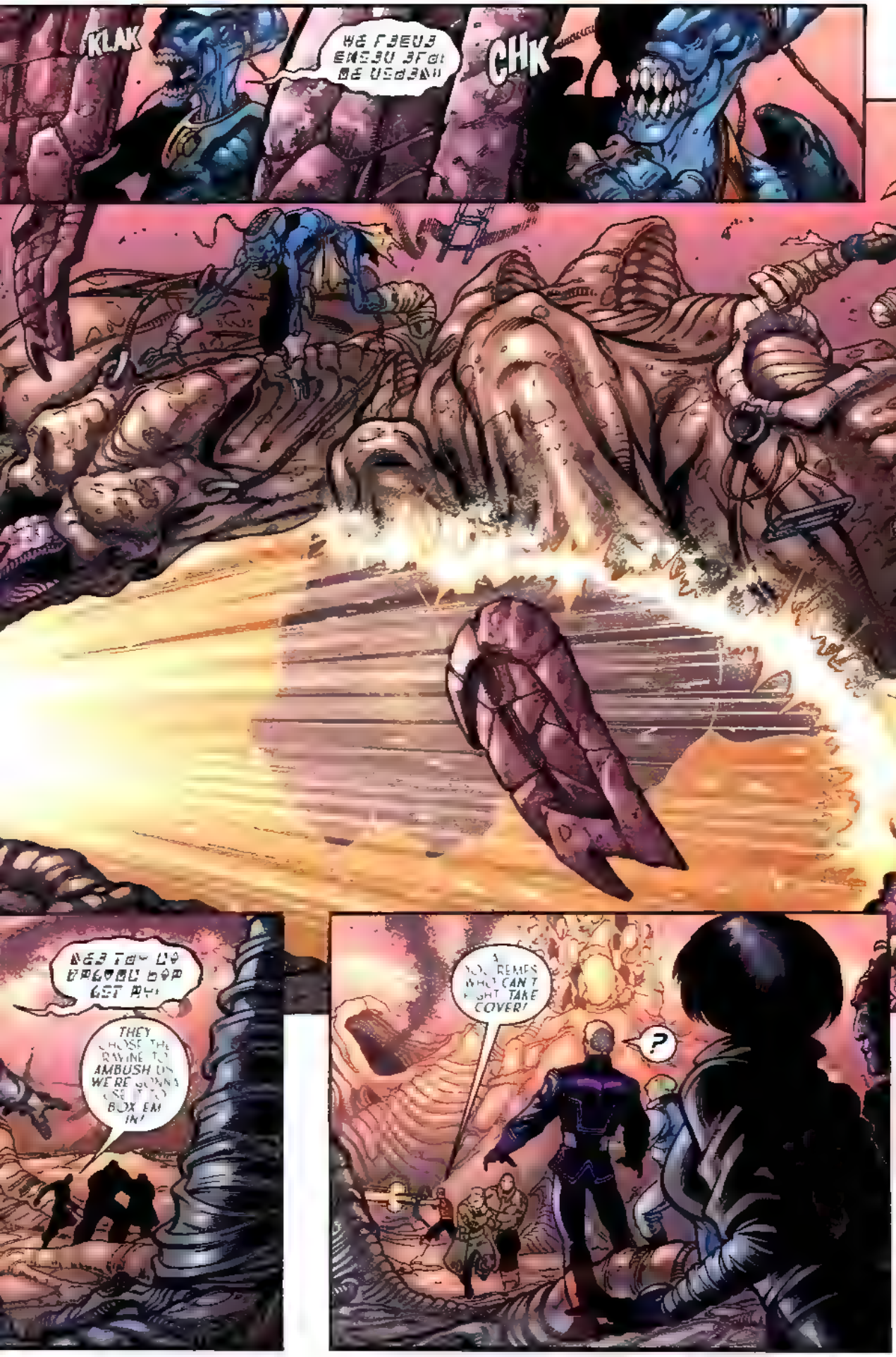
WELL IF IT ISN'T THE PEST
NICE SPEAR YOU THE HUNTER OR THE HUNTED TODAY?
FUNNY WAS JUST WONDERING THE SAME THING
SEVEN SPIRITS! THAT'S FOOD! REAL FOOD
SOME BILGE FOR BRAINS LEFT THAT SITTIN AROUND?
WAIT!

EARNED
IT'S STILL HOT! WHO COULD'VE
AAHHHH!
pop pop pop

TAKKA TAKKA
TAKKA TAKKA
TAKKA TAKKA

INTERRUPT

SAY IA!
KCHK
TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA TAKKA
TATTOO GUY! GRAB YOUR FRIEND AND RETREAT!
MY NAME IS MATUA
MATUA YOUR SHIELD TRICK BARELY WORKS!
WE GOTTA GO!


KLAK
CHK
?
I DON'T REMEMBER WHO CAN'T FIGHT TAKE COVER!
THEY CHOSE THE RAVINE TO AMBUSH US WE'RE GONNA USE IT TO BOX EM IN!

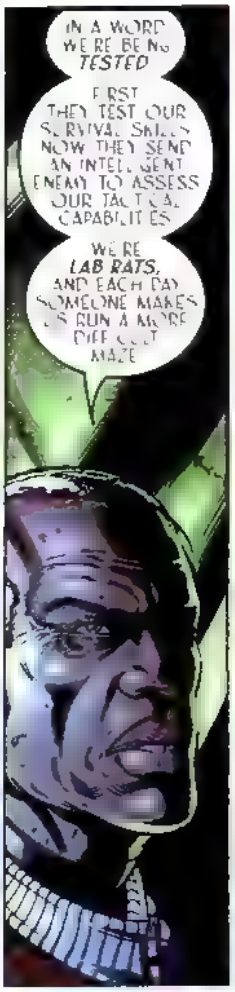
THE REST OF YOU MAKE A STAND RIGHT HERE WITH ME!
DO IT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES!

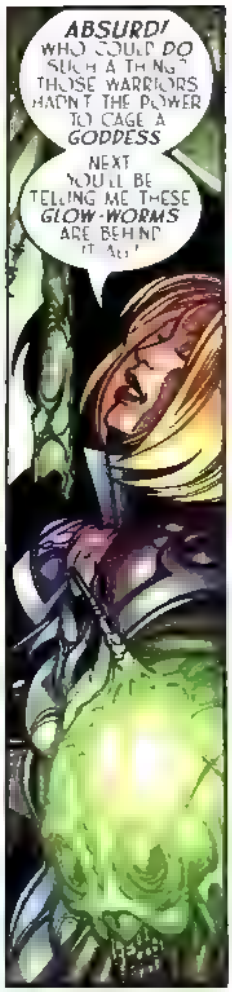
DAMMIT. NO!

AND YOU ARE
OBREGON
HONORED
DISPLEASED
PRISONER
INTELLIGENT
QUESTIONS

AND WHY CONTROL OUR SLEEP PATTERNS WITH THE NIGHTMARE
DON'T ASK ME TELL ME

WASTE NO MORE OF MY TIME REHASHING THE MYSTERIES OF THIS PLACE. STOP TRYING TO MAKE ME THINK LIKE YOU.
JUST GET TO THE POINT. WHY DO YOU THINK WE ARE ON THIS WORLD?


IN A WORD, WE'RE BEING TESTED.
FIRST THEY TEST OUR SURVIVAL SKILLS. NOW THEY SEND AN INTELLIGENT ENEMY TO ASSESS OUR TACTICAL CAPABILITIES.
WE'RE LAB RATS, AND EACH DAY SOMEONE MAKES US RUN A MORE DIFFICULT MAZE.


ABSURD! WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING? THOSE WARRIORS HADN'T THE POWER TO CAGE A GODDESS.
NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME THESE GLOW-WORMS ARE BEHIND IT ALL!

BUT UNLIKE THE LAMP HEADS, THOSE WARRIORS ARE'NT NATIVE TO THIS WORLD. OR I'D HAVE FOUND SOME RACE OF THEM SOONER.
THEY WERE BROUGHT HERE PROBABLY FROM THE SPACEPORT I SAID. WE'LL FIND TWENTY MILES TO THE WEST.

OOH, I'VE SEEN THIS SORT OF THING BEFORE. BACK WHEN I SERVED WITH THE PALADINS.

PSYCH WAR
A MILITARY MAN A SOLDIER SMARTER
GENERAL
ALL?!
UNIVERSE!
COMMON
KILLED
ALIVE
PARADE?
HOME?
BEYOND

HAS A PLAN TO RETURN US ALL HOME
AND THOUGH HE IS AMONG THE LEAST OF US IN POWER EVEN A TRAINED DOG
YOU WILL ALL THEREFORE HEED HIS WORDS
PEST ?
THANK YOU FOR THAT ROUSING INTRODUCTION EVINLEA
THE REST OF YOU LISTEN UP!
WE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HERE BY AN UNSEEN ENEMY ONE WE MUST FIRST EXPOSE, THEN DEFEAT SO WE CAN GO HOME!
ALREADY WE HAVE AN ADVANTAGE BECAUSE OUR ENEMY MADE TWO CRUCIAL MISTAKES!
ONE IS OR SHE GATHERED US FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS AND CULTURES THINKING THAT OUR DIFFERENCES WILL KEEP US DIVIDED
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO POOL YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND TALENTS! WE WILL BECOME GREATER THAN THE SUM OF OUR PARTS!
TWO OUR ENEMY SOMEHOW SCRAMBLED THE SPECIAL ABILITIES THAT MANY OF YOU HAVE BUT LEFT INTACT THOSE OF THE LADY EVINLEA!
HER POWER IS OUR KEY VICTORY!

E-VIN-LEA! E-VIN-LEA!
THE BATTLE PLAN IS SIMPLE PHASE ONE WE MARCH TO THE HORIZON TO THE ENEMY SPACEPORT!
PHASE TWO
SCOUT
PHASE THREE WE STEAL
NIGHTWALL!
NOW! NOT NOW!
WERE

WAKE UP, ALL OF YOU! GET TO YOUR FEET!
YOU ARE ALL PRISONERS OF THE NEGATION!
YOU WILL ALL FALL INTO RANKS FOR ROLL CALL!
ANY DEVIATION FROM INSTRUCTIONS IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH!
GUARDS!

ANY MORE QUESTIONS?
WORSE BEFORE
ASKING
WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS PHASE OF YOUR BATTLE PLAN

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

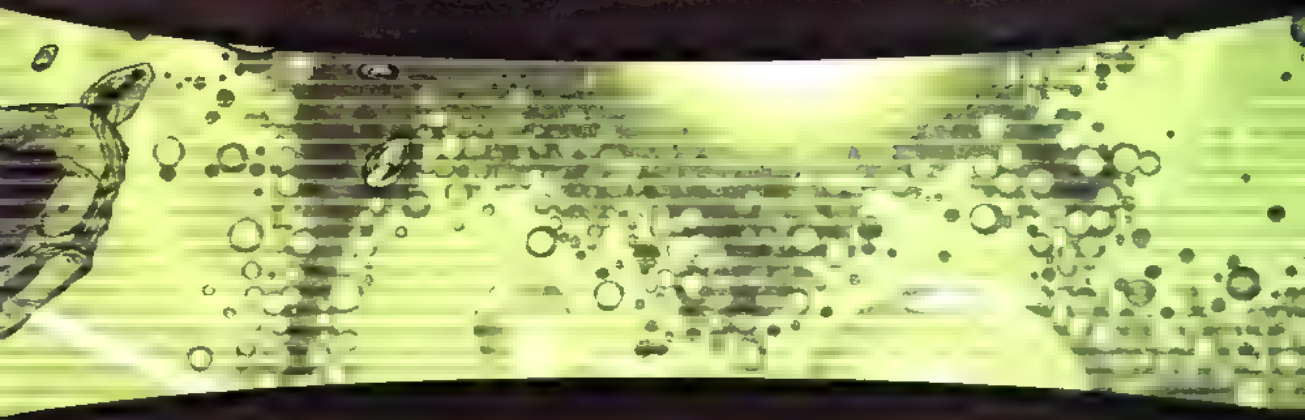
TONY BEDARD AND MARK WAID
WRITERS

PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

DAVE LANPHEAR WITH TROY PETERI
LETTERERS



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TROY PETERI Design Assistant * MICHELLE PUGLIESE Freelance Coordinator

CROSSGENERATION COMICS

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

TO: Paul Pelletier, Dave Meikis, James Rochelle
FROM: Tony Bedard

RE: NEGATION PREQUEL Creator Profiles

All right, guys, I give in. Since you all hated my brilliant "prison shower" photo-shoot idea for this **Meet-the-Creators** segment, I'll go along with your lame suggestion that we let the readers see what we actually do for a living.

From Script, to Pencils, to Inks, to Color, we'll show them the step by step evolution of Page #1 from our next issue, NEGATION #1. We'll also present our own pictures, with our past comics credits in that "prisoner file" format you sketched out. James

I hope you're all very happy now. I also hope Target will take back the four prison stripe Speedo bathing suits I picked out for us. But I'm keeping the soap-on-a-rope.

Anyhow, here's the script.

NEGATION ISSUE ONE.
PAGE ONE

PANEL 1: Inset panel. Exterior establishing shot of the prison.

PANEL 2: Splash panel.
Komprin stands at attention in his dark little equipment jammed control room. From here, he controls and monitors the whole prison complex. Put a vid screen in a bank of equipment behind him, as he's gonna do a show'n'tell on the following pages. Before him, on a little projector platform, is a holo image of the Negation General he reports to. We see this from behind the Negation General, so his face is obscured. Komprin has his chin up, chest out. He's the picture of grim confidence.

TONY BEDARD

PRISONER RECORD NEGBBI

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

SOURCE: NEGATION
PRISON COMPLEX 937
HIGH CASTELLAN
KOMPTIN, WARDEN

SPECIES INDEX

HUMAN
SAURIAN
LESSER RACES
INFERNAL MINION
TROLL
ATLANTEAN
FIRST
SECUNDAE

NAME: TONY BEDARD

ALIASES: "Tonan the Barbarian"

AGE: 34 Orbits

PLANETARY ORIGIN:
San Juan (in the Puerto Rico Sector)

SPECIAL ABILITIES:
"readin', ritin' & 'rithmetic"

PREFERRED WEAPONS:
Dell Computer, MicroSoft Word, Thesaurus.com

CRIMINAL RECORD:
Bedard has worked in comics since he began as an intern at Valiant Comics in 1992, eventually rising to Executive Editor. He wrote extended runs on Magnus Robot Fighter, Rai, and Psi-Lords as well as issues of Turok and Shadowman. He also wrote freelance for Broadway Comics and Malibu Comics before becoming Senior Editor at Crusade Entertainment, also writing Shi: The Series and Tomoe. Most recently, Bedard worked as an editor for DC Comics, working first on the JLA line and then the Vertigo line.

TIME SERVED

9 ORBITS

PAUL PELLETIER

PRISONER RECORD NE5882

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

SOURCE: NEGATRON PRISON COMPLEX 937

HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN, WARDEN

SPECIES INDEX

FIRST SECUNDAE
HALF-BLOOD UNDERLING
HUMAN
SAURIAN
LESSER RACES
INFERNAL MINION
TROLL
ATLANTEAN

NAME: PAUL PELLETIER

ALIASES: "Loose Cannon"; "B-Squiggle"; "Page-O-Matic"; "Back-Hoe"

AGE: 31 Solar Years

PLANETARY ORIGIN:
Lewiston (in the Maine Galaxy)

SPECIAL ABILITIES:
visual storytelling, character design, page composition, surliness, awkward golf swing, great "jump-shot"

PREFERRED WEAPONS:
mechanical pencil, 2H & H8 leads, light-box, smooth Bristol paper, oatmeal and Moxie

CRIMINAL RECORD:
Pelletier has been drawing comics since 1990 when he started with Alpha Productions. From there he went on to work for Malibu Comics drawing Ex-Mutants, before moving to DC Comics where he drew The Outsiders, Green Lantern: Superboy and the Ravers, Flash, and most recently, Titans.

TIME SERVED
12 SOLAR YEARS

DAVE MEIKIS

PRISONER RECORD NC6803

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

SOURCE: NEGACION
PRISON COMPLEX 939
HIGH CASTELLAN
KEMPEIN, WARDEN

SPECIES INDEX
AFLUENTEAN
FIRST
SECUNDAE
HALF-BLOOD
UNDERLING
HUMAN
SAURIAN
LESSER RACES

NAME: DAVE MEIKIS

ALIASES: "Visitor from Zunoh"

AGE: 35 yahrens

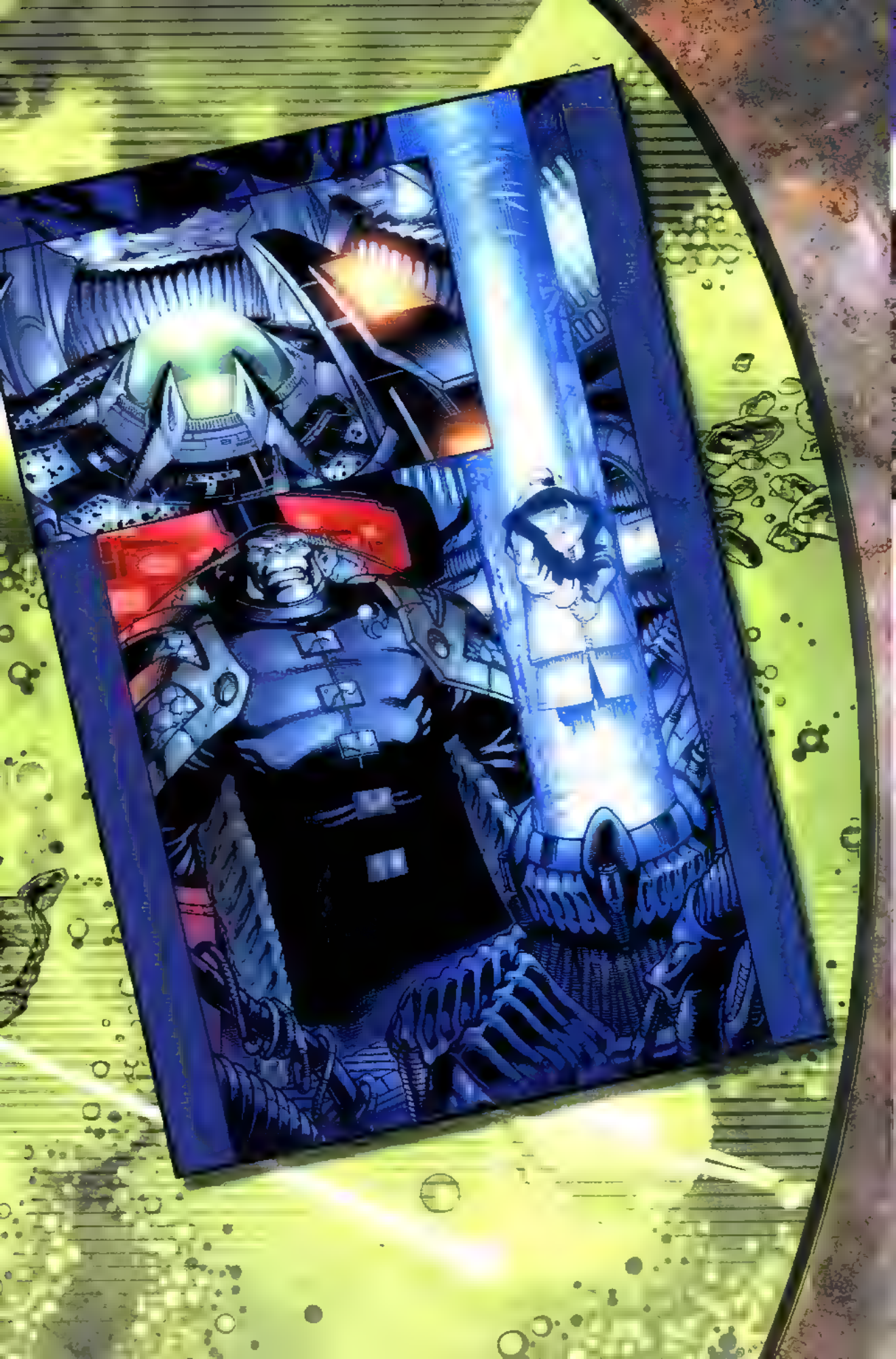
PLANETARY ORIGIN:
Waterbury (in the constellation Connecticut)

SPECIAL ABILITIES:
adding depth and texture, making the ink [illegible]
stealth, working through the pain

PREFERRED WEAPONS:
Raphael #404 brush, Hunt #102 quill,
Higgins "Black Magic" ink, insomnia

CRIMINAL RECORD:
Dave Meikis has been inking comics since shortly after his graduation from the Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art in 1993. Meikis' credits include his creator-owned Image Comics title Arkaga, issues of JLA and JSA for DC Comics, as well as being the regular series inker for DC's Houraan.

[illegible] TIME SERVED
8 yahrens



JAMES ROCHELLE

PRISONER RECORD REG884

CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

SOURCE: NEGATION
PRISON COMPLEX #37
HIGH CASTELLAN
KEMPEIN, WARDEN

NAME: JAMES ROCHELLE

ALIASES: "Roach"

AGE: 30 cycles

PLANETARY ORIGIN:
Redondo Beach (in the California Nebula)

SPECIAL ABILITIES:
separating planes, lighting effects, palette [illegible], staying inside the lines

PREFERRED WEAPONS:
Macintosh G4, Wacom stylus, Photoshop 5.5, Coffee

CRIMINAL RECORD:
Rochelle started coloring comics in 1993 for WildStorm, working on every WildStorm book at one time or another, as well as training some of the industry's best talents, including CrossGen's own Laura DePuy and Justin Ponsor. During his career, Rochelle has also colored for Image Comics, DC Comics, and Marvel Comics. In 1997 he became a texture artist in the video game industry, working for Angel Studios and Presto Studios on such games as Myst III, Star Trek: Hidden Evil, and more. He also continued coloring comics on a freelance basis, most notably on Steam Punk for DC's Cliffhanger imprint.

SPECIES INDEX

[illegible]
[illegible]
LESSER RACES
[illegible]
TRELL
ATLANTEAN
FIRST
SECUNDAE
HALF BLOOD
[illegible]

TIME SERVED
8 cycles

GENERATOR™ CROSSCURRENTS

by Tom Peyer

As I write this, the topic of this month's column is "The Length of Our Comics, Part II." Back in our June issues I tried to explain – from a production standpoint – why our stories were 22 pages in length. If my subsequent mail was any gauge, the reasoning I used seemed to satisfy most people. However, I still get letters complaining that our stories move too slowly, that they just don't seem to get where they're going fast enough. Conversely, I get just as many letters – if not more – saying that readers really enjoy the pace of the books and appreciate the time we take to develop our characters and plots. At this point I suppose I could say that we can never please everyone and let it go at that, but let me see if I can do a little better.

While we were doing our research in preparing to form CrossGen, we discovered a few important things. First, one of the best-selling products across entertainment categories is the serial. Look at television with shows like *Buffy, Xena, Star Trek* and *West Wing*. Look at the proliferation of novels in series of three, four, and more volumes from *Horatio Hornblower* to *Lord of the Rings* to *Harry Potter*. And movies? *Alien* and *Star Wars* are the classic popular examples. The common denominator in all of these examples is the *big story*, especially when combined with characters that people care about.

Second, comic buyers feel taken advantage of by crossovers. They resent having to spend their money on books they wouldn't normally buy in order to get a small portion in each of them of some (usually) mish-mash story which will "forever change the XYZ Universe." You people know a marketing ploy when you see one!

Third, American comic buyers have become conditioned to what Mark likes to call "short story syndrome." What this means is that people resent paying about three bucks for a 22-page story. Other companies' response to this is to do shorter, three-issue story arcs. We don't think that approach really addresses the problem. First off, we have no intention of dropping any of our books. Since they're going to be around for a long time we can afford to develop them over the longer term. This will probably result in fewer readers earlier on, but more in the long run. So, what we do is give you a tale; each book is complete, in and of itself, but we also have that larger, over-arching backstory. You want a meaty, substantive story with real characters? Read one book. You want a wider view of what's going on? Read more of our books, and beguile yourself with ferreting out the hints of the bigger picture that are strewn amongst them. Who's right? Who knows? We'll have to wait and see.

The American comics market is unique in that it consists overwhelmingly of superhero books – and the American market is shrinking while in Europe and Asia comics reach literally millions of people. In Japan, individual issues can sell from 1.2 to 1.4 million copies! Why? Because they're serials, because they have a number of different stories bundled together in a big book (which gives the purchaser not only variety, but also more "bang for the buck") and because they are, by and large, not superheroes; the stories run the gamut from contemporary mainstream to horror and everything in between. In fact, the average American consumer demands more detailed art than in these Japanese collected products, which takes more time to do and therefore contributes to CrossGen's stories playing out over a longer period of time.

So, all of this should make the perceptive reader (that would be any one of you) begin to understand the approach we're taken to the books we make and how we make them. Like your uncle Rebo favor. We'll be here when you're done.

DC GENERATION COMICS, INC. PUBLICATION GOOD READ

SAURIANS

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February 6th, 2002

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THE FIRST #13

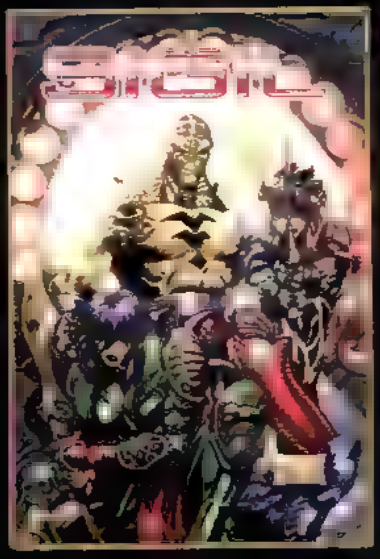
BARBARA KESEL
BART SEARS
ANDY SMITH
MICHAEL ATIYEH

IN STORES NOW

MYSTIC #18

TONY BEDARD
BRANDON PETERSON
JOHN DELL
ANDREW CROSSLEY

IN STORES NOW



SIGIL #18

MARK WAID
SCOT EATON
ANDREW HENNESSY
WIL QUINTANA

IN STORES NOVEMBER 14th

SOJOURN #5

RON MARZ
GREG LAND
DREW GERACI
CAESAR RODRIGUEZ

IN STORES NOVEMBER 14th

SCION #18

RON MARZ
JIM CHEUNG
DON HILLSMAN II
JUSTIN PONSOR

IN STORES NOVEMBER 21st

CRUX #8

MARK WAID
STEVE EPTING
RICK MAGYAR
FRANK D'ARMATA

IN STORES NOVEMBER 21st

MERIDIAN #18

BARBARA KESEL
DEREC AUCOIN
JASON LAMBERT

IN STORES NOVEMBER 21th

RUSE #2

MARK WAID
BUTCH GUICE
MIKE PERKINS
LAURA DEPUY

IN STORES NOVEMBER 28th

CROSSGEN CHRONICLES

#5 IN STORES NOVEMBER 28th

The Magic of George Pérez

RON MARZ • GEORGE PÉREZ • PABLO MARCOS
CHRIS GARCIA • MIKE GARCIA

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Andy Smith • Michael Atiyeh
on sale
FEBRUARY 27th

NEGILON
ISSUE #1
on sale
DECEMBER 12th
Tony Bedard
and Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle
The FIGHT for FREEDOM BEGINS!

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1
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Negation
Tony Bedard
and Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle
PELETIER
MEIKIS

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the Negation

But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities...

...and He covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

At His behest, one hundred ill-fated souls were abducted from scores of our worlds and brought to His dark realm to be tortured and tested... to struggle and die.

Charon watches the grim experiment unfold, cataloguing humanity's strengths and weaknesses, preparing His strategies for the war to come. But, for a prisoner named Obregon Kaine, the war has already begun.

Deep within the stronghold of the enemy, one ordinary man plots the downfall of a god...

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HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN!
NOW?
STUPID
AND
STOP
MAN

A NEW
PERSONAL
FIXATE
MARSHAL
PHASE
ORDINARY

PROBLEMS
THIS
BACKFIRE
CATASTROPHIC
KNOW
POINT!
TOO RISKY
WERE SCARED
ANSWERS
REALLY
RECON
INTEL
RALLIED
THIS
PHASE TWO
MARCH

TELLING
WASN'T
BIG GUNS
FORCED MY HAND
WASN'T ONE OF THEIR WOULD BE GODS
FIRST
MARKED
ONES
PRISON CAMP
KAINE

TAKE YOUR PLACES AND SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!
YOUR SORRY LITTLE LIVES NOW BELONG TO THE NEGATION IMPERIUM!
YOU DON T SPEAK, YOU DON T EAT, YOU DON T SLEEP, YOU DON T DIE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION!

MY NAME IS KOMPTIN THIS MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY IS UNDER MY COMMAND
EACH MORNING, YOU WILL REPORT TO THIS ARENA FOR ROLL CALL
FIRST MEAL WILL BE CONSUMED IN THE MESS HALL
EXERCISE PERIOD WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE CENTRAL YARD
JAV
EACH DAY, SOME OF YOU WILL BE SELECTED FOR TESTING THESE TESTS WILL
PRISONER EVINLEA!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

MOAN

THESE OTHERS YOU BROUGHT HERE FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT. DO WITH THEM WHAT YOU WILL BUT YOU AND I WILL NOW SPEAK PRIVATELY
THIS
FIRST
LAWBRINGERS
ALONE
MARKED ONES
KLIK
K-ZZZK
ALMIGHTY
POWER
GLORY
ANY

THE NEGATION ALREADY HAS A GOD WE DON T NEED ANOTHER
MARK MANIFEST VERY SPECIFIC TALENTS MY FOR EXAMPLE DOESN T APPEAR TO WIELD POWER OMSELF BUT HE CAN AMPLIFY THE ABILITIES OF WHOMEVER HE TOUCHES
DETERMINE WHY HIS MARK WORKS WHILE SO MANY ARE SCRAMBLED MAYBE IT S BECAUSE IT WORKS FOR OTHERS
GUARDS, SEPARATE THEM THROW THE MALE IN SOLITARY
WHERE WAS I? OH YES YOUR DAILY TESTS. SOME ARE PHYSICAL SOME ARE COGNITIVE ALL OF THEM CAN KILL YOU
REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE OR BREAK THE RULES AND YOU WILL BE EXECUTED
NOW, GO AND EAT HEARTY YOU'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH!

BLORT
WITH EVINLEA NEUTRALIZED THERE WERE STILL OTHERS ON WHOM ALINE MIGHT TURN
SAURIAN FEMALE
THIS IS A CRIME AGAINST NATURE
PRISONER IRESS
PRISONER CORRIN
BAD DREAM
SHE'S CRAZY

LOOK AT
BELIEVE
BOOT LICKERS
STAY AWAY
FRIENDS

DON'T QUESTION ME JUST KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT I'LL LET YOU KNOW RIGHT NOW I'M NOT SAFE TO BE WITH UNDERSTAND?
OBREGON MAINE I... CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE HERE!
YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?
C'MON WE'RE BIRDS OF A FEATHER!
MAYBE THEY NEVER GAVE YOU VID PRIVILEGES, BUT YOU MUST'VE HEARD OF MERCER DRAKE
YOU KNOW SCOURGE OF SAVES'... MOST WANTED MAN IN THE AAZRATH SYSTEM...
AND YOU? MAN WHO HASN'T HEARD OF YOU BACK AT HOME? WHEN YOU
THAT WAS A... LET ME AGO, MISTER DRAKE
...THANK YOU TO LEAVE MY PAST WHERE IT BELONGS. BEHIND ME
ARE WE CLEAR ON THIS?
THAT WAS WHEN I KNEW FOR SURE THAT MAINE WAS A DANGER TO ALL OF US. PRISONER DRAKE HAS SHOWN THE HIGHEST POWER LEVELS OF ANY MARKED ONE HERE AND YET SHURA

YES, THE **MARKED ONES**. HAVE YOU CRACKED THE MYSTERY OF HOW THEY **GOT** THESE MARKINGS?

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW THEY **WORK**? WHY THEY EACH SEEM TO MANIFEST **DIFFERENT** ABILITIES?

CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY WE HAVE **NOTHING** LIKE THEM ON **THIS** SIDE OF THE BARRIER?

URK! NO

NO, **OF COURSE** NOT IT WAS ONLY YOUR **PRIMARY MISSION** AFTER ALL

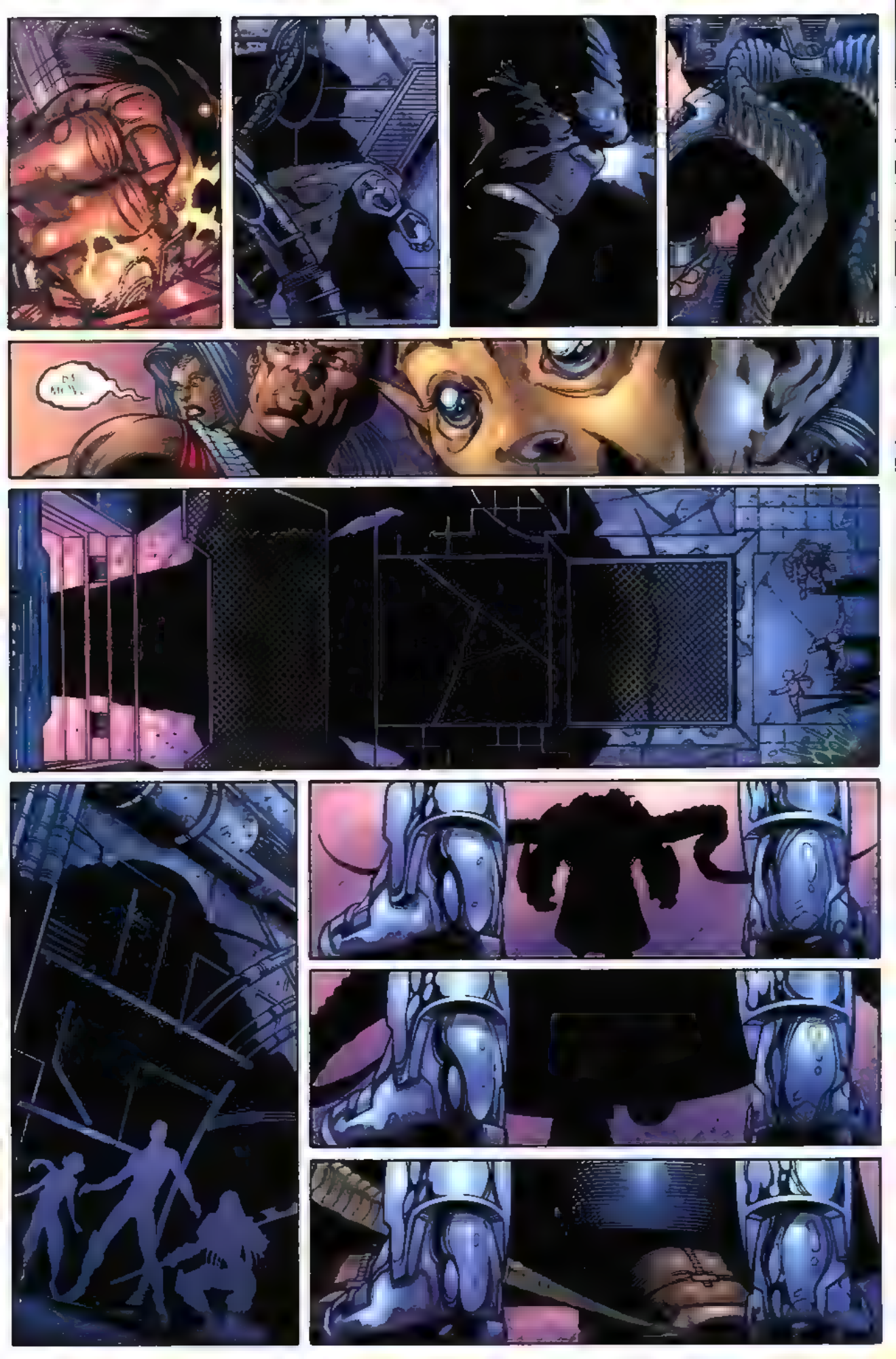
INSTEAD YOU WASTE MY TIME WITH A PERSONAL VENDETTA AGAINST THE **LEAST** OF THE RATS IN YOUR CAGE!

I'M THROUGH HUMORING YOU KOMPTIN. TELL ME **NOW** HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO CALL DOWN THE WRATH OF THE **EMPEROR HIMSELF**?

TESTING PERIOD
A LOT
FROM THESE TESTS
STRENGTH, SPEED
AND AGILITY
INTELLIGENCE
PAIN
ANOTHER PRISONER
RULES
WAS A RACE
LIVE
MISMATCH

VENOM!
RIGHT AWAY I LEARNED TWO FACTS, SIR
ONE SAURIAN VENOM IS SLOPPY
TWO IT IS DEVASTATING TO THE ATHRANIAN NERVOUS SYSTEM
HELP ME!

AAHHH!
PRISONER KAINE! YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF THE RULES!
SKLUTCH
YOU WERE TOLD NOT TO COOPERATE! OR DIDN'T YOU PAY ATTENTION?
C'MON!



SO YOU THINK YOU CAN SCORE POINTS WITH THE INMATES AT MY EXP
WHAT?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
SURPRISING
WHAT?!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

KAINE!

NOTHING
YOU'RE NOTHING!
MMMMMM
HOLD.
DONE

STAY YOUR HAND, HIGH CASTELLAN. THIS ONE'S LIFE IS NOT TO BE WASTED.
AIEEEE...!

THIS ONE INTERESTS ME. HE IS NOT TO BE DESTROYED MERELY TO SATISFY YOUR ANGER.
LET THE EXPERIMENT CONTINUE. IF HE SHOULD FALL IN SOME TEST OR SUCCUMB TO AN ACCIDENT, SO BE IT. BUT KNOW THAT I AM WATCHING.
AND THEN HE WAS GONE
TEN THOUSAND YEARS I'VE SERVED HIM. CONQUERED A UNIVERSE FOR HIM
BUT I HAVE NEVER KNOWN EMPEROR CHARON DEIGNED BE HIS NAME TO INTERCEDE LIKE THIS
AH, FOR SOMETHING AS WORTHLESS AS YOUR PRIDE! I'D END YOU MYSELF RIGHT NOW BUT
YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING KOMPTIN. I AM NOT STUPID
THE EMPEROR LEFT YOU AT YOUR POST FAR BE IT FROM ME TO QUESTION HIS WISDOM
PRECISELY
LET THE EXPERIMENT CONTINUE IF HE SHOULD FAIL IN SOME TEST
OR SUCCUMB TO AN ACCIDENT

Negation™
ISSUE #2
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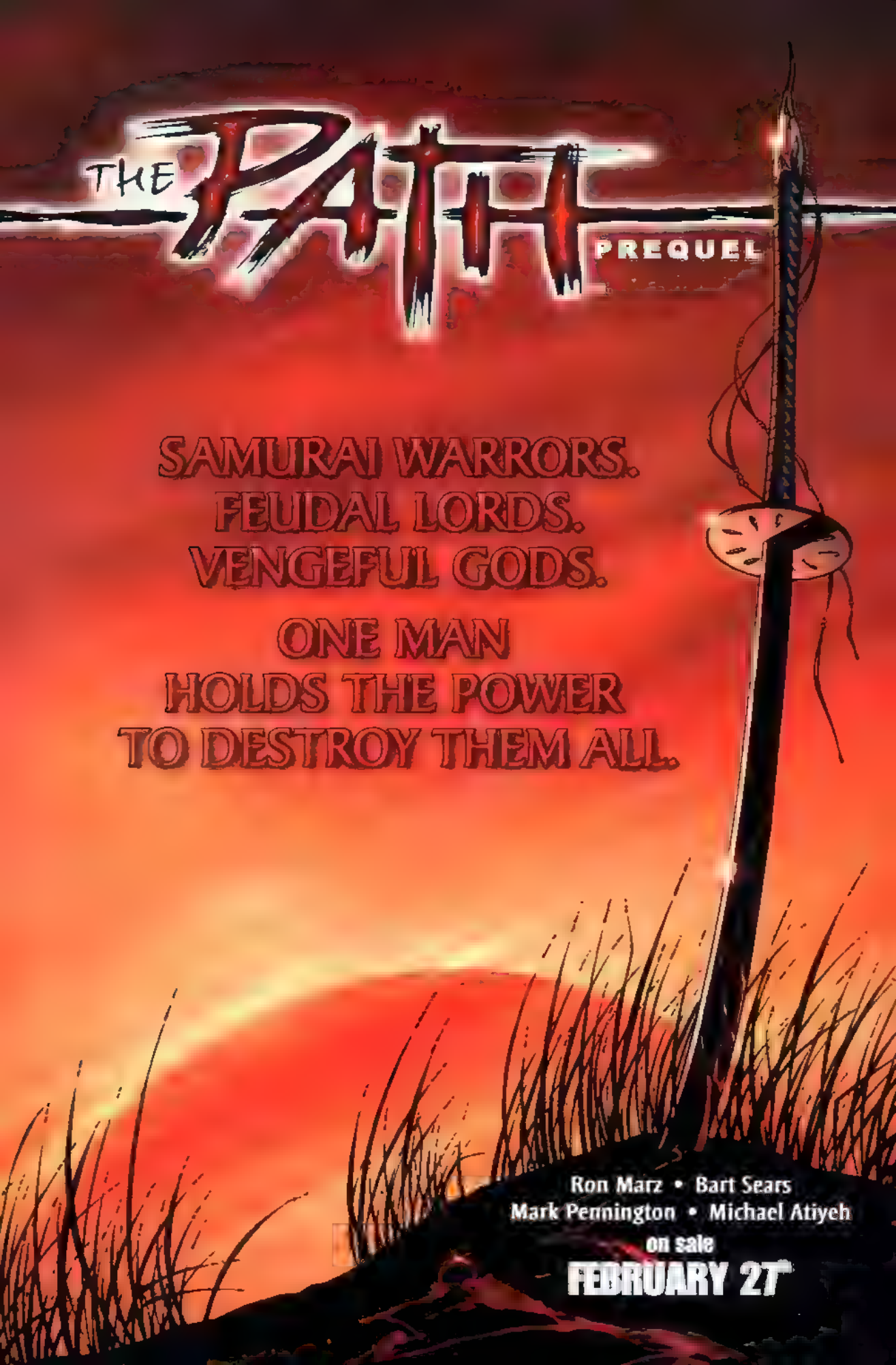
JAILBREAK!
TONY BEDARD!
AND MARK WAID!
PAUL PELLETIER!
DAVE MEIKIS!
JAMES ROCHELLE!


THE PATH
PREQUEL
SAMURAI WARRORS.
FEUDAL LORDS.
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HOLDS THE POWER
TO DESTROY THEM ALL.
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FEBRUARY 27

NEGATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

This month's letter columns are going to be a little different. Ever since CrossGen began, we've been getting letters from people who just want to tell us how much they like what we're doing, either in the industry in general, or across our own line. These letters are rarely specific enough to any one book to justify printing them in a particular letter column, but they are very heartwarming to all of us here because they recognize and validate what we stand for and the hard work it takes to accomplish those goals. So, in each of our letter columns this month I will include a few of these letters – usually without comment – in addition to the book-specific ones. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as we do getting them.

Dear Everyone at CrossGen,

I'm just sending a note to thank you for making great comics. I had my doubts when I heard about your start-up two years back (less, actually). I feared you would be around for a few issues and then fold, as so many companies have done. Well, you haven't folded; in fact you keep getting better. Your two latest titles, NEGATION and RUSE, are both excellent.

I am an artist, and I could go on about the high quality of your art, but it wouldn't be fair to everybody else who has something to do with the books. Your company is good because everyone does a great job and obviously cares about what they do.

Thank you for making comics fun again. You've made me excited about going to Comic Quest every week to get whatever your latest installment is.

Steve Neff
Evansville, IN

To Whom It May Concern,

When CrossGen announced its two most recent series, they almost sounded like polar opposites to me, in terms of appeal. On the one hand, RUSE: I love detective stories, I love the Victorian era, I think Mark Waid is a fine writer, and I've been a fan of Butch Guice since *Micronauts*. It couldn't feel more like you had created a book especially for me if you had brought back *The Bazz Chronicles*. On the other hand: NEGATION. The concept originally sounded like the CrossGen version of the *Justice League*. While I liked the Tony Bedard story I read in Vertigo's *Flinch*, I mostly think of him as writing for Valiant about the time I started losing interest in their books. On the other hand (the third hand?) Paul Pelletier would be penciling NEGATION, and I've been a fan of his work for a long time. And, other CrossGen books that I hadn't expected to particularly like (SIGIL and SCION) ended up really surprising me. So, I decided to trust in CrossGen's ability to please me so far, and took the plunge. I should explain that I get my comics mail order from my friend Steve's store, Ground Zero, in Bowling Green, Ohio. So if I want to be sure to get something, I have to order it from *Previews*, two months in advance. (Sometimes more than two months, if it's late, but that isn't a factor with you guys.) So, much of my comics buying happens sight unseen.

My trust was rewarded. Tony and Mark Waid delivered a thrilling, action-packed story that also plants the seeds for interesting character development – which I have come to expect from CrossGen. As usual for your company, I can't tell from this first issue exactly where the story will be heading, but I know I want to stick around to find out. Paul Pelletier, matched well with Dave Meikis and James Rochelle, delivered everything I expected of him, and more. Freed from the modern-day trappings and bright images of superhero comics, he seems to really enjoy letting his imagination loose on the alien landscapes and races found in these pages. Page 9 (Kaine's operation dream) revealed a dark, creepy side I hadn't seen in Paul's work before. Very well done, and I'm glad I set aside my misgivings and trusted in your track record.

I have to admit, I'm particularly curious about next month's story. I want to see how the first issue is structured to justify calling this issue the "prequel," instead of just the first issue. With SOJOURN, the prequel issue was very clearly a prologue to the main story. The NEGATION PREQUEL doesn't seem like it will be so separated, and almost smacks of a gimmicky "Zero" issue. On the other hand, you didn't do that with the first issue of RUSE, so I'll give you the benefit of the doubt.

Finally, I am pleased to see a CrossGen comic featuring a lead character who isn't white. Previously, it seemed like all your prominent minority characters, like Mai Shen in SCION or Reesha in MERIDIAN, were on the side of the devils. While I don't necessarily think that comics should go out of their way to create characters of color just for the sake of having them, there isn't any real good excuse for them to all be

white, either. Comics do have a lousy track record in this regard, and between this book and (presumably) THE PATH, it's nice to see CrossGen making some inroads toward improvement in that area. Not only do we have Kaine as the lead here, but also this issue's cover and ads I've seen have prominently featured an Asian woman, and THE PATH looks to similarly feature an Asian lead. I work in a children's library in a primarily African-American neighborhood. I hope to have the library purchase at least some of the CrossGen trade paperbacks (if not all) because I think kids will be interested in the fantasy and science fiction stories you tell, instead of just traditional superheroes. However, I'm particularly glad that I'll eventually be able to display a book featuring a lead character the same race as most of the kids who will be seeing it.

Keep up the good work (and congratulations on 100 on-time issues)!

Andrew Kaplan
Las Vegas, NV

Thanks for your letter, Andrew, and I'm glad NEGATION has such a fan. We thought this book was the perfect place to get a diversified bunch of characters, given its basic premise. It was always our intention to have a non-Anglo lead, but we wanted it to be in the right book. I would like to point out, though, that our very first "good guy" of color appeared in issue #1 of MERIDIAN in the person of Sophie's long-time friend, Zoulca.

✦

Dear NEGATION Crew,

I just finished the NEGATION PREQUEL. I gotta admit I had no knowledge about the book before I picked it up. I knew absolutely NOTHING about it, except that Waid was doing it. Naturally I had to get it, even though I'm not all that into team books. Actually, I tend to loathe them because the majority of the first issue is usually all fight and very little dialogue and I'm lost the entire time. I never can get the names straight and by the end of the issue (to be continued, of course) I'm fed up and never bother again. The first couple of pages of the NEGATION PREQUEL had me worried. Lots of action; no characterization; didn't know what the heck was going on. But...I'm supposed to be confused because even the characters don't really know what is going on. You explained this right away, not three issues later (when I would have already quit reading). I am amazed. Stunned. Very pleased. I knew Mark Waid would not let me down. Okay, I know this Tony Bedard guy is also involved in the writing and he should also get the credit but like I said before, Waid is the reason I bought the book in the first place. So, even though I collect over 50 titles a month I am adding NEGATION to the pile of stuff I have to read first. I just wanted to let you know I read it, I liked it, and I'm going to keep reading it.

Thanks again.

Travis Poole
tpoole@carol.net

Take it from me, you won't regret that decision, Travis. All the boys say "Thanks."

✦

Hello, Gina and NEGATION,

Every time a new title comes out, I love the CrossGen Universe more and more (if that's possible). The NEGATION PREQUEL is a masterpiece. Tony Bedard and Mark Waid's storytelling is such that I hung on to every word in every panel. The art by Paul Pelletier is amazing. Dave Meikis inked Paul's pencils superbly. James Rochelle's colors makes the art jump off the pages. Dave and Troy's lettering was great. You all make a fantastic team. I can't wait for NEGATION #1. I love a comic with lots of characters, which is why THE FIRST is my favorite CrossGen title. I am hooked. Thanks for the fun, CrossGen!

Sincerely,
Carlos Kito Ruelas
Fresno, CA

PS. Thanks for not filling up your beautiful books with advertisements.

You're welcome, Carlos, and you've got great taste! Thanks for writing.

✦

CrossGen people,

I'm truly amazed that you are able to keep such a consistent level of quality throughout your entire line of books. In advance, I wasn't all that psyched about this new title, but after reading the NEGATION PREQUEL, I have to say that you've won me over. Big time. From here on in, I see no other choice than to purchase everything you publish like a mindless slave, since it is very clear to me that CrossGen is infallible. The main reason I wasn't all that excited about NEGATION was the art team. Except for Paul Pelletier, all of them were unknown to me, and I wasn't too crazy about his style from what I'd seen of it before. But reading this story, and seeing Paul's stellar storytelling abilities and clean style augmented by the pleasantly surprising, solid skills of the Messieurs Meikis and Rochelle, I was instantly converted into a die-hard fan. And although it sometimes was a little hard to keep up with the hurried pace of the story itself, Bedard and Waid's combined efforts also came off as classy. After all, it isn't all that unnatural to be a bit confused when dropped into the thick of happenings like we were with this PREQUEL. All in all, I think NEGATION is going to be great.

You also introduce a very complex, intriguing and believable lead character in the aforementioned Obregon Kaine. Still, I'm looking forward to seeing more members of the cast getting the spotlight in future issues. For example, will the arrogant Evinlea stay that way, or will sharing a desperate situation with "lower" beings influence her? After all, this seems to be a title that will explore the human (or should that be "humanoid?") spirit and nature and how it reacts when faced with daunting problems and situations. Maybe we'll get to know if the First really are gods, or if they're more human than they care to think... Mmm. Exciting stuff.

Waiting with bated breath for December 12th (or in my case, five days later),

Karl Ruban Weseth
Trondheim, Norway

As usually seems to be the case, Karl, everyone involved in new projects at CrossGen always seems to surpass their previous accomplishments – not that we're complaining! As for changes in Evinlea, I think you've made a good point. Keep reading!

via snail mail:
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4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

or via e-mail:
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NEGATION (in the subject line)

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with Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Roche

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged a stellar empire known as:

the Negation

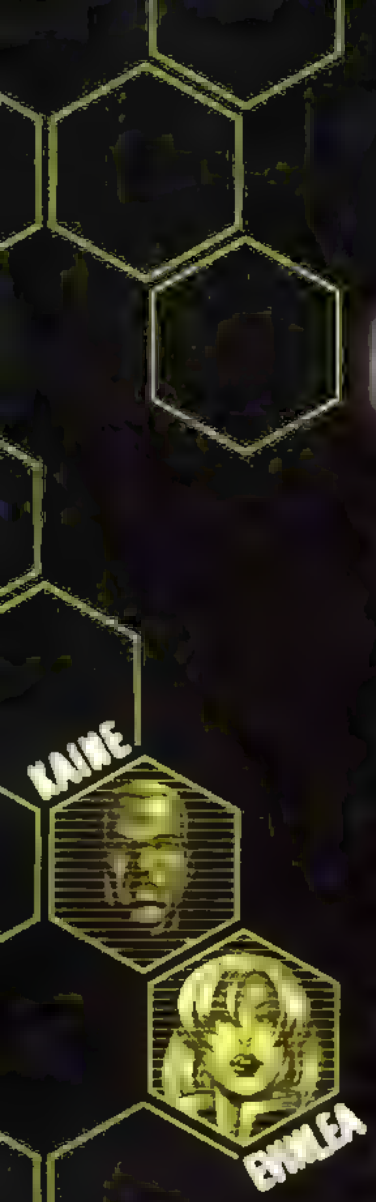
But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities...

...and He covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred ill-fated souls were abducted from scores of our worlds and brought to His dark realm to be tortured and tested...to struggle and die.

As the grim experiment unfolds, humanity's strengths and weaknesses are measured and factored into Negation strategies for the conquest to come. But, for a prisoner named OBREGON KAINE, the war has already begun.

Kaine constantly tests his limits, searching for a way out of the alien prison, and earning the hatred of the prison warden, KOMPTIN. If he is to rally the others for an escape, Kaine must do so under the constant scrutiny of his vicious jailer...



KAINE

EMMLEA

JAYI

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MY NAME IS JAVI COBIAN I'M FROM A PLANET CALLED ARRINAGA IN THE HATORET SYSTEM
OKAY NOW IT'S YOUR TURN
SILENCE. PRISONER!
OH NO AFTER EIGHT DAYS OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT I'VE HAD ALL THE SILENCE I CAN HANDLE
YOU NEGATION PEOPLE KIDNAP STARVE AND TORTURE ME THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS GET TO KNOW ME AS A PERSON SO LET'S START FROM THE TOP
ABOUT A MONTH AGO I WAS TAKING A NAP BETWEEN SHIFTS AT THE HOSPITAL
BE QUIET!
AND I WOKE UP HERE WHICH I'M GUESSING IS CLEAR ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY AM I RIGHT?
STOP TALKING!
WHAT? KILL ME? YOU'D BE DOING ME A FAVOR. AFTER WHAT YOU'VE PUT ME THROUGH OVER THIS DAMNED CURSE ON MY ARM
I USED TO THINK IT WAS A MIRACLE THAT LET ME HEAL MY PATIENTS WITH A TOUCH

BOOM
WHAT WAS THAT?
HALT!
CHOOM CHOOM
EVINLEA!
EVINLEA YOU'RE SHOT!
DOESN'T MATTER YOU CAN SAVE ME
SKNNN
NOT LOCKED UP IN HERE ANY?

TAKE MY HAND!
SKIZZZZ
POP
POP
POP
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU JUST DID
SHRAK

I'M SORRY
SO NOW THAT THE WARDEN TOSSED YOUR BOY TOY IN SOLITARY SUDDENLY YOU REMEMBER HOW NICE IT IS TO HAVE FRIENDS?
YOU MOCK ME OBREGON KANE? I COME TO YOU IN GOOD FAITH AND—
YOU COME TO ME BECAUSE WITHOUT YOUR BOYFRIEND YOU CAN'T FLY OR SHOOT DEATH-RAYS OR DO ANY OF THE FUN STUFF YOU GODS TAKE FOR GRANTED

OH, YOU'RE PROBABLY AS TOUGH AS A TANA
BUT SOMEHOW JAX KEPT YOUR OTHER AGENTS FROM [illegible] TOTALLY SCRAMBLED LIKE EVERYONE ELSE'S AROUND [illegible]
YOU AN[illegible] KISS, BUY OR CRY YOUR WAY OUT SO TEAMWORK IS STARTING TO LOOK PRETTY GOOD TO YOU
WELL THAT'S OKAY EVINLEA BECAUSE I DO HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN AND YOU PLAY A BIG PART IN IT
BUT I NEED YOUR PROMISE TO STAND BY US NO MATTER WHAT
MY WORD OF HONOR I SHALL NOT FORSAKE YOU
IN THAT CASE LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO WESTIN HE CLAIMS HE CAN OPERATE ANY TECHNOLOGY HE ENCOUNTERS
HIYA
HE'LL BE DRIVING OUR FREEDOM BIRD ONCE WE STEAL IT MORE ON THAT IN A MINUTE

MATUA
MAGIC
BACKFIRE
THEORY
THALIA
MELTED
FLAME VISION
TAUGHT HER BACK AT HOME
MY MASTER IS ALSO OF THE FIRST, LADY EVINLEA. PERHAPS YOU KNOW LORD KOHM
NEVER COULD PICK A WINNER
OR MAYBE YOU SO CALLED GODS SHOULD PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS WHEN YOU LEND YOUR POWER TO MORTALS
ANOTHER
EXPLODED
IN SPITE OF HIS INSOLENCE
OF COURSE
MY POWER

GUARDS! KILL THEM! KILL THEM ALL!!
FLASH

GASP
KAINE BASED HIS PLAN ON A RECENT EXPERIENCE HE'D HAD IN THE *TESTING ARENA*
KOMPTIN STACKED THE DECK AGAINST THE *LIZARD LADY* AND ME
WHEN WE SURVIVED HIS TEST ANYWAY, HE GOT SO MAD HE CAME DOWN FROM HIS CONTROL ROOM TO FINISH US OFF *HIMSELF*
HE *WOULD'VE*, TOO BUT THEN THE DAMNDEST THING HAPPENED
SOME *GLOWING GUY* I THINK HE'S THE *LEADER* OF THIS WHOLE NEGATION OUTFIT STEPPED OUT OF NOWHERE AND *STOPPED* HIM
BUT THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER MY POINT IS THAT IT TOOK KOMPTIN LESS THAN A MINUTE TO WALK FROM HIS CONTROL CENTER TO THE ARENA FLOOR
WHICH MEANS THAT IF WE CAN *BREACH* THE ARENA WALL, HE SHOULD BE *RIGHT THERE* -AND WE CAN TAKE HIM *HOSTAGE*
HE MUST HAVE A *TRANSPORT SHIP* PARKED SOMEWHERE IN THIS PLACE. WE'LL STEAL IT AND FLY IT *OUT* OF HERE

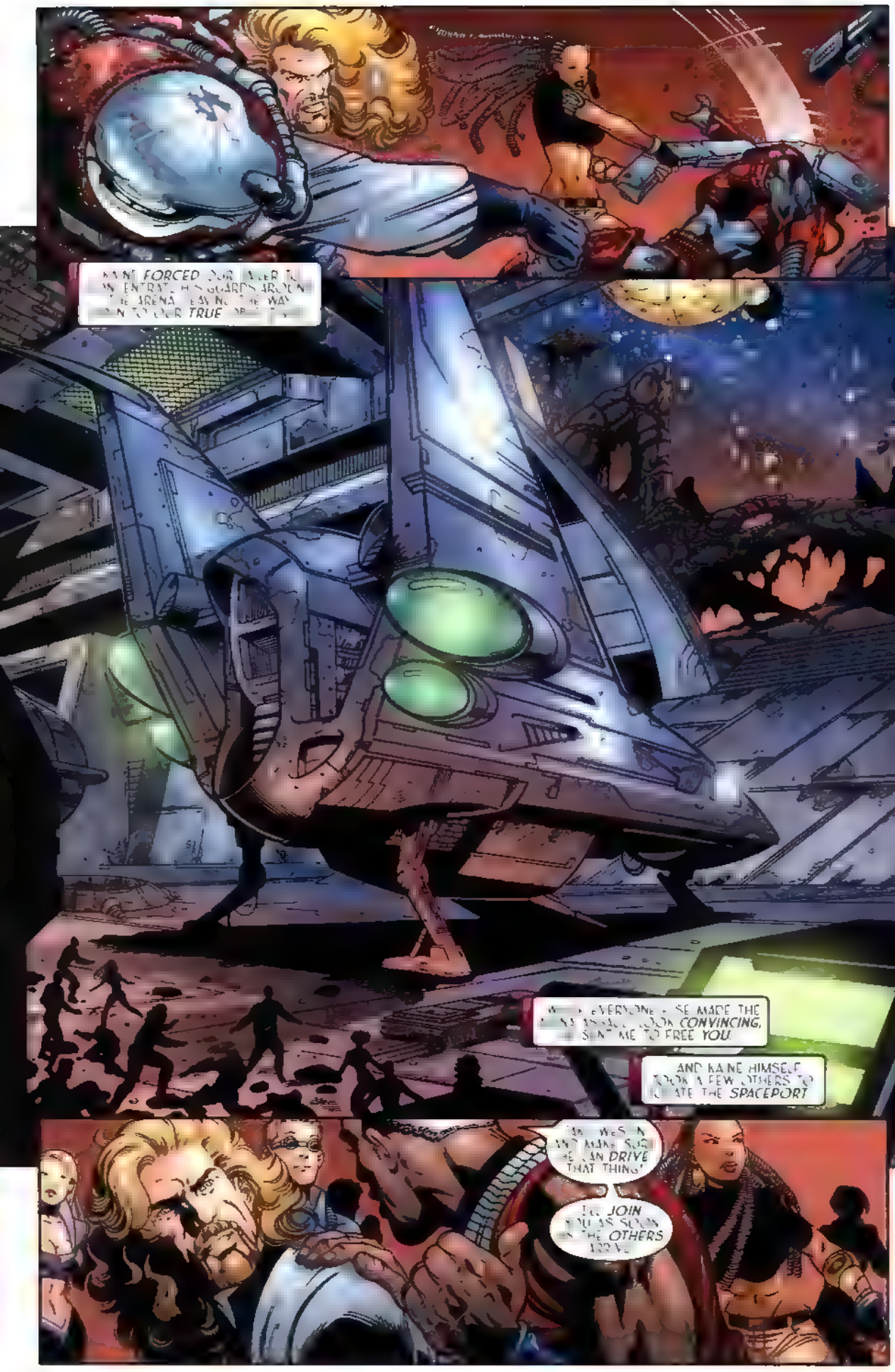
AND WHAT OF YOUR GLOWING MAN? WILL HE NOT JUST STOP US THE MOMENT WE GET TOO FAR?
IF HE'S REALLY THE EMPEROR HE'S GOTTA BE A BUSY GUY I DOUBT HE'S ALWAYS WATCHING
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANCE AND HOPE THAT ONCE WE'RE OUT OF THE PRISON HE CAN'T TRACK US
KAINE WARNED US THAT THE WARDEN WOULD NOT EASILY BE TAKEN. FOR ADDITIONAL POWER HE RECRUITED THE OTHER SIGIL-BEARERS
MERCER DRAKE, RIGHT? LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO
SHASSA WE'VE MET ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I DID WAS COMPARE NOTES WITH ANYONE ELSE WHO BORE THE MARK
AND WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE HE'S A CRIMINAL I'M A CONSTABLE

ON MATUAS WORLD THEY HAVE DEVISED REMARKABLE METHODS TO MANIPULATE THE *UNIVERSAL ENERGIES* THAT SW[illegible] AND EDDY UNSEEN ACROSS THE UNIVERSE
WHAT MY PEOPLE DO NATURALLY AS ALL *MAGIC*
WITH THE RIGHT WORDS AND GESTURES AND SOME MENTAL GYMNASTICS YOU CAN CAUSE THE *IMPOSSIBLE* TO HAPPEN
IT TAKES *PRACTICE*, BUT WHEN YOU DO IT RIGHT IT FEELS A LITTLE LIKE DOING *LONG DIVISION* IN YOUR HEAD
IT'S JUST A GUESS BUT I THINK YOU ALL ACCESS THE SAME POWER I DO THE PROBLEM IS ON *THIS* WORLD THE ENERGIES THEMSELVES FEEL SOMEHOW *CORRUPTED*
POP
I THINK IN TIME YOU'LL ALL NATURALLY ADAPT BUT MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU *CUT* THE ADJUSTMENT PERIOD DOWN TO A FEW DAYS
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE HEARD MORE BUT OUR *JAILER* SEEMED ALWAYS A STEP AHEAD OF US
ATTENTION THE FOLLOWING PRISONERS WILL REPORT TO THE TESTING ARENA IMMEDIATELY
PRISONERS HALPRIN FINNEY HUMM AND *THALIA* THE REST OF YOU AS YOU WERE

NO! WE'RE NOT READY
IT'S ALRIGHT MATUA... LET ME GO
WE'D HAVE TO ANYWAY WHATEVER POWER MIGHT ST... BE IN HER THE WOMAN'S BLIND SHE'S USELESS
MY FRIEND IS NOT DISPOSABLE. I'M NOT LETTING HER GO. WE'LL DO THIS RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW
NO! IF WE DON'T STAY INSIDE THE ARENA THEN IT'S ALL FOR NOTHING
JUST... JUST WAIT HERE. LET ME GET INTO THE ARENA. WHEN YOU HEAR MY SIGNAL, FIGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF HERE AND COME RUNNING
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TELLING YOU?
YES I'LL TELL THE OTHERS TO BE READY
I'M SORRY MATUA, BUT YOU CAN'T AVOID SACRIFICE IF YOU'RE FIGHTING A WAR
AND SO ON THALIA'S SIGNAL, WE STORMED THE ARENA--
=UNH=
ARE YOU OKAY?

EVERYONE! TO THE SPACEPORT!

WARDEN?
LIED
TO ALL
MAGNIFICENT


FORCED
TRUE
CONVINCING,
YOU.
AND KAINE HIMSELF
SPACEPORT
DRIVE
THAT THING!
JOIN
OTHERS

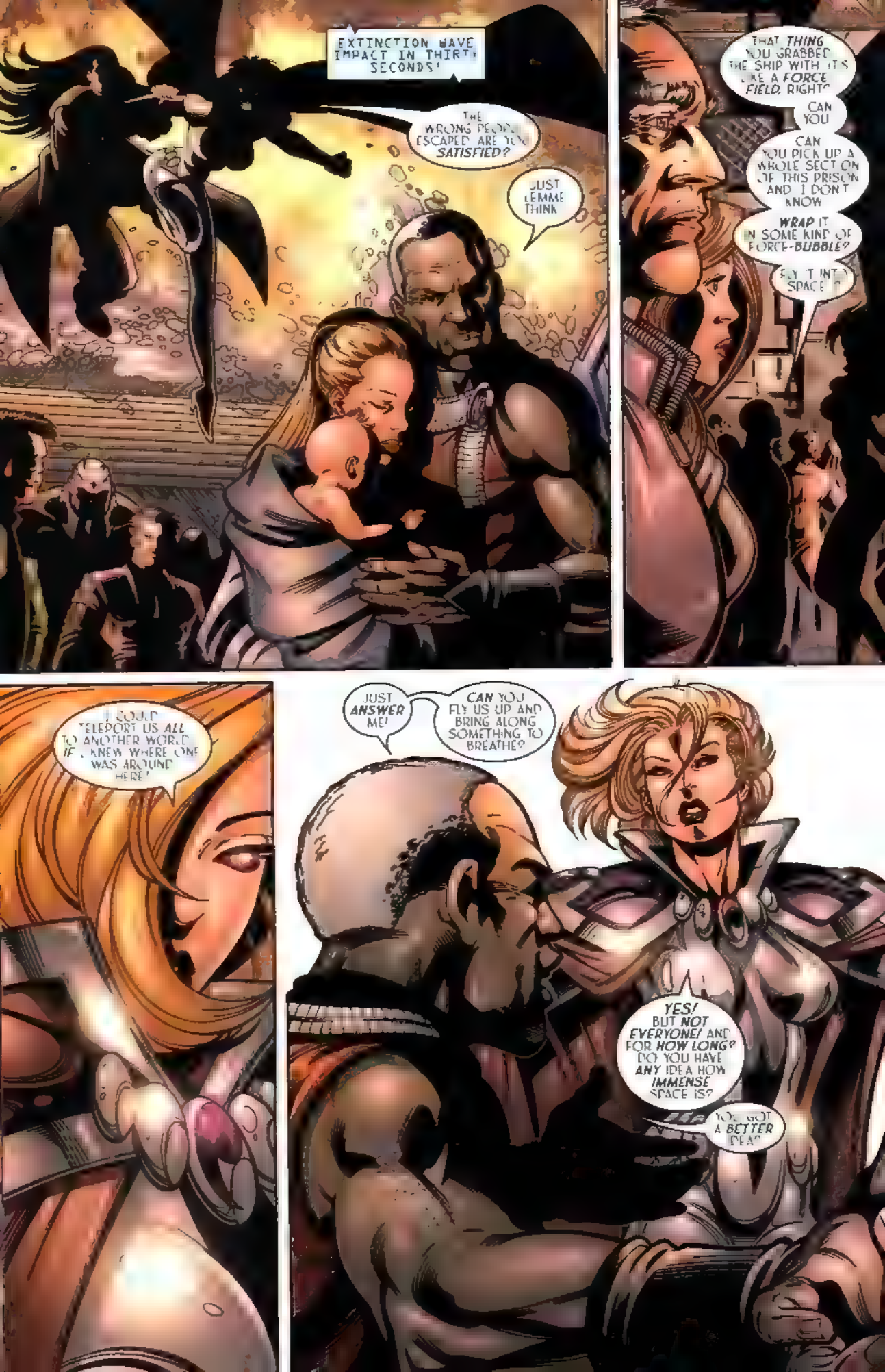
MEAN, PRISONER
ESCAPED?! WHAT IN
NAME OF CHARON
GOING ON
SETBACK
LOST CONTROL
KOMPTIN AND
THAT'S SOMETHING
WE CANNOT
AFFORD
WE CAN'T
HAVE SO MANY OF
THEIR TOP ASSETS
RUNNING LOOSE IN
NEGATION
SPACE
NO!
STOP THEM
PLEASE
ATTENTION ALL
PERSONNEL!
EXTINCTION WAVE
ARMED! EVACUATE
FACILITY
IMMEDIATELY!

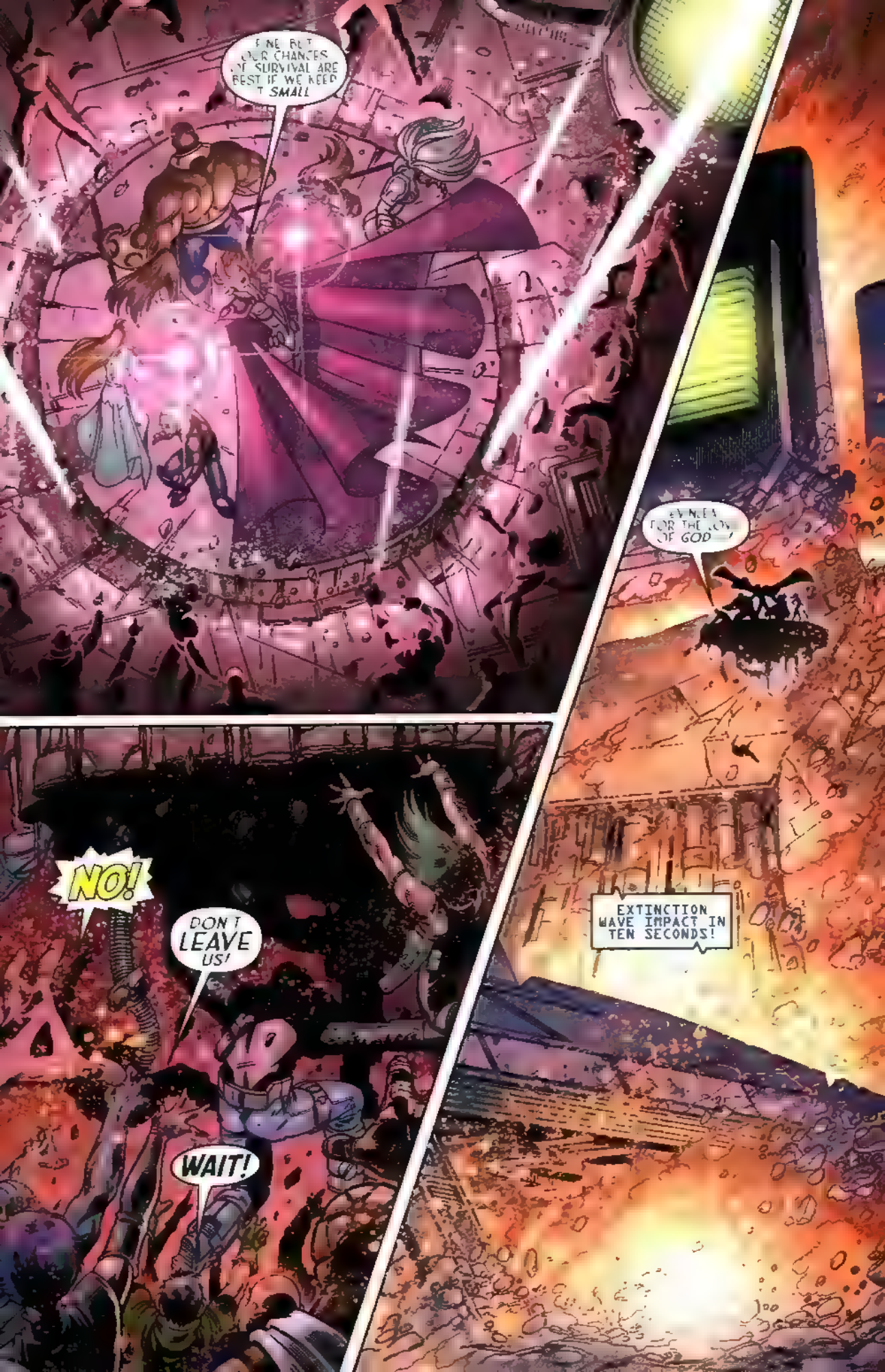
EXTINCTION WAVE DEPLOYING! EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY!
GET IN THE SHIP JAY NOW

IMPACT IN THREE MINUTES!

AUTO-LAUNCH INITIATED. STEP AWAY FROM THE DOORS.
THIS IS MY SPECIALTY
BEEP
KACHUNK
AIEEE
BACK

EVINLEA! LET THEM GO! YOU'LL ONLY BREAK THE SHIP! YOU'RE KILLING THEM!
AIRBORNE!
WE ONLY MANAGED TO GET ELEVEN ON BOARD IN LUDNIS


EXTINCTION WAVE IMPACT IN THIRTY SECONDS!
THE WRONG PEOPLE ESCAPED! ARE YOU SATISFIED?
JUST LEMME THINK
THAT THING YOU GRABBED THE SHIP WITH IT'S LIKE A FORCE FIELD, RIGHT?
CAN YOU
CAN YOU PICK UP A WHOLE SECTION OF THIS PRISON AND I DON'T KNOW
WRAP IT IN SOME KIND OF FORCE-BUBBLE?
FLY IT INTO SPACE?
I COULD TELEPORT US ALL TO ANOTHER WORLD IF I KNEW WHERE ONE WAS AROUND HERE!
JUST ANSWER ME!
CAN YOU FLY US UP AND BRING ALONG SOMETHING TO BREATHE?
YES! BUT NOT EVERYONE! AND FOR HOW LONG? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW IMMENSE SPACE IS?
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?


FINE BUT OUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE BEST IF WE KEEP IT SMALL
AVENGE FOR THE SON OF GOD
EXTINCTION WAVE IMPACT IN TEN SECONDS!
NO!
DON'T LEAVE US!
WAIT!

FIVE SECONDS!
FOUR!
THREE!
HONOR
TWO!
ONE!
I'M SORRY MATOA, BUT YOU CAN'T AVOID SACRIFICE IF YOU'RE FIGHTING A WAR
PFFT

Negation™
Tony Bedard
with Mark Waid
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle
ISSUE #3
on sale
FEBRUARY 13th
LOST IN SPACE

NEGATIONS
"PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Machinations:

In truth, I could have cared less about the Negation when CRUX premiered. So, when it was announced that there would be a comic featuring none other than the Negation, I was less than thrilled. I thought that CrossGen was finally slipping up. I was wrong.

Tony Bedard and Mark Waid have created a story that needs to be read more than once to take in the full effect. Including some interesting ideas, like one of the First being captured by the Negation, and the black wave that envelopes everything.

But it was the art that grabbed me when I first picked up the comic. I had seen Paul Pelletier's work before in *Flash*, and I had scanned *Titans* once or twice. This art puts everything else in his career to shame. You need to look at every page two or three times to get the full effect. I always expect great art from CrossGen, but I never expected something like this! Dave Meikis also did an amazing job inking over Paul and James Rochelle's colors are vibrant and true – they give the book an extra layer of beauty and they are unlike anything I have seen in a comic before. Overall, the art is some of the best I've ever seen from CrossGen. Great work.

Robert Taylor
smsuso@core.com

We also feel that the creative team on this book is outstanding, Robert. Thanks for writing. I'll pass your high marks along to the boys.

Dear CrossGen team,

I have to say that the NEGATION PREQUEL is the best introduction to a series that I have ever read. I've never written to a publisher before because nothing else has ever gotten me this worked up! The instant strength, charisma and raw grittiness of Obregon Kaine is bound to make him one of the most complex and interesting characters in any universe. My hat is off to Mr. Bedard and Mr. Waid. They have truly hit the mark dead center with this one. I must also say to all the cranky "22s" out there: CrossGen's timing of the titles is the best in the industry, hands down. It has to be tough on everyone involved to produce such high quality – and more importantly – worthwhile stories only to be criticized on the pacing. I think that some people need to really read books like MYSTIC and THE FIRST with a discerning eye and open mind in order to fully appreciate what CrossGen is trying (rather successfully) to accomplish.

I would personally like to thank everyone at CrossGeneration for his or her hard work and creativity. I know it's just comics, but in times like these, I appreciate being able to sit down and read your books and have them put a smile on my face, to lighten my load if only for a little while. It's a special thing to be able to share a little bit of yourself and make others happy in the process. So, at the end of those 70-hour weeks, know that there is someone out there who is sincerely grateful for the effort you make.

Truly,
David L. Gonzalez
Yonkers, NY

PS. I am but one of many such thankful fans; keep up the good work!

Speaking of putting smiles on peoples' faces, that's exactly what your letter did for everyone around here when I showed it to them, David! Thanks for taking the time to write about us so generously; it really made my day!

Dear Gina,

Really enjoyed both the NEGATION PREQUEL and the first issue of the ongoing series. I like the core conflict that Tony Bedard (with Mark Waid) has set up for us between Obregon Kaine and Charon: it's prisoner versus keeper, freedom versus oppression, and all that.

The tricky part comes from the fact that it's not quite that cut and dried, as shown by Charon's mysterious appearance at the end. Charon's not evil for the sake of being evil, he's evil in the pursuit of information to help him conquer this new universe. And Kaine and his people, in fighting for their freedom, will provide Charon with the information he desires. That makes it a rather tricky fight.

In the end, Kaine will fight his war against Charon by throwing his "underlings" at Charon's underlings. This isn't a war of force – it's a war of planning and the strategic use of the powers available. In that, Kaine is at a distinct disadvantage. He's got a large variety of people who aren't necessarily all loyal to him. Charon has a series of troops who follow his every order. Kaine has to learn with whom he's imprisoned, gain their confidence and trust, and then use them properly to beat Charon's people. All Charon has to do is sit back, give orders, and learn from the conflicts. It's an uphill battle, but I'll be rooting for Kaine.

Sincerely,
Augie De Blieck Jr.
North Haledon, NJ

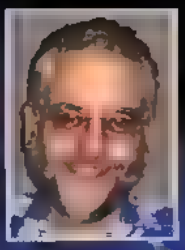
Ah, but Augie, I beg to differ. Kaine's military background gives him quite a lot of strategic and tactical experience and he's already shown that he has a knack for getting a disparate group of people to work together. True, it will be an ongoing task for him, but I think both you and the Negation may be surprised at what he will be able to accomplish. Anyway, thanks for being on his side and for writing!

via snail mail:
CrossGeneration Comics, Inc.
4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)

CROSSGEN CROSSCURRENTS

This month I'd like to shine the CrossGen spotlight on two guys who really represent both ends of the spectrum when it comes to comic book experience: **Chuck Dixon** and **Fabrizio Fiorentino.**



Chuck certainly needs no introduction to comics fans, and I did a quick rundown of his resume just a couple of months ago, so we don't have to go there again. However, at that time we weren't in a position to say exactly what he would be doing for us. Well, we are now. Starting with issue #21, Chuck will be scripting SIGIL, joining **Scot Eaton, Andrew Hennessy** and **Wil Quintana.** He and Scot have worked together before, on *Green Lantern: The New Corps*, a two-issue Prestige format miniseries published by DC back in 1998, and they tell me that, ever since, both of them have been looking forward to working together again. Beginning with issue #13, Chuck joins **Steve Epting, Rick Magyar** and **Frank D'Armata** on CRUX. Though this is their first collaboration, Chuck says that Steve has always been on his short list of people he really wanted to work with. For his third CrossGen project, Chuck will be launching the launch of our 11th monthly title, WAY OF THE RAT, a martial arts adventure series penciled by veteran **Jeff Johnson**, himself a practitioner of Aikido. If that alone doesn't make Jeff the perfect choice for this book, just wait until you see the great art he's producing! The rest of the creative team is still to be determined. WAY OF THE RAT will debut May 8, 2002. Looks to me as if all of these matches were made in heaven! Chuck is already churning out primo material for us on a free-lance basis and will be joining us here in the studio permanently at the beginning of March 2002.

Fabrizio (don't call him Fab) began as an Associate Penciler for us only in May, after a brief career in his native Italy. Since then you've seen his work in some pin-ups, a couple of backup stories, and a relief issue of MYSTIC, issue #17. Issue #21 of MYSTIC marks his debut as the regular penciler of that book, joining writer Tony Bedard and colorist Andrew Crossley. He takes over from Brandon Peterson, who ends a popular and successful run on MYSTIC to assume the mantle of CG's Vice President of Production Control. Matt Ryan will add his talents as inker to complete the team, as the book takes on a slightly...well...more *mystical* tone. Fabrizio will join us from Naples as soon as the appropriate paperwork is completed. Look for MYSTIC #21 on February 6, 2002. To tide you over until then, feast your eyes here on a few panels from page 7 of that issue.

Next month we'll be giving you a preview of what we have in store for you across the CrossGen line in 2002. It's exciting stuff, so don't miss it!

CROSSGEN COMICS
3
MAR
$2.95
www.crossgen.com
Negalon
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged a stellar empire known as:

the Negation

But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities...

...and He covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred unlucky souls were abducted from scores of planets in our universe and brought to His dark realm. There, in a brutal prison camp, they were tortured and tested, the better to judge humanity's strengths and weaknesses for the conquest to come.

Then a prisoner named Obregon Kaine led an uprising against the local Negation commander, Komptin. The Negation High Command responded by putting the prison-world to the torch. Though most of the inmates perished, two groups managed to escape. One bunch, led by the notorious space pirate Mercer Drake, got out in a stolen spaceship. The others — Kaine among them — were carried away from the burning planet by the immensely powerful prisoner named Evinlea...

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WEIRDER

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN? THERE'S NOTHING DREAMY ABOUT WATCHING ALL THOSE PEOPLE BURN TO DEATH!
I JUST MEAN THAT IT'S ALL SO I DON'T KNOW ORIGINAL?
I'VE HAD A ZILLION DREAMS SINCE GOING INTO STASIS BUT THEY'RE ALWAYS PRETTY MUCH WHAT YOU'D EXPECT
THE ONE WHERE YOU GO TO WORK IN YOUR UNDERWEAR
THE ONE WHERE YOUR BOYFRIEND HAS CHANGING INTO SOMEONE ELSE
BUT YOU PEOPLE ARE BY FAR THE BEST CHARACTERS I'VE EVER DREAMED UP ESPECIALLY YOU, KAINE
SOMEONE ENJOYING THIS BECAUSE JAY AND I CANNOT MAINTAIN THIS BUBBLE FOREVER
UNLESS WE FIND AN HABITABLE WORLD SOON THIS DREAM WILL TURN INTO A RATHER NASTY NIGHTMARE
WHAT ABOUT THE SPACESHIP DRAKE'S GROUP ESCAPED ON? WOULDN'T THEY STILL BE NEARBY?
THAT BACKSTABBING PIRATE'S PROBABLY HALFWAY HOME BY NOW

FASTER?
STEER
WEAPONS
SORRY! IT WOULDN'T BE HAPPENING THIS WAY IF MY SIGIL WORKED RIGHT! I'D BE ABLE TO SEE ALL THE RIGHT ARROWS!
BUT HERE IN THE BUTT END OF SPACE, WHAT I'M SEEING IS MOSTLY STATIC
AND ANYWAY, THIS SHIP'S DESIGNED TO BE PROTECTED BY FIGHTERS NOT FOR HAVING TO OUTRUN THEM!

YOU
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING
WESTIN! ONE OF THEM GET RIGHT BEHIND US!
THE CLOSER, THE BETTER, UNDERSTAND?
AND TRY TO HOLD HER STEADY UNTIL I'M OUT!
DRAKE DON'T BE STUPID! YOU GO OUT THAT AIRLOCK AND IT'S SUICIDE!
TYPICAL COP MENTALITY ALWAYS PLAY IT SAFE ALWAYS ASSUME THE WORST, NEVER TAKE CHANCES
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO? YOUR SIGIL ISN'T WORKING ANY BETTER THAN WESTIN'S
TRUE... IF TRY SOMETHING COMPLICATED LIKE FLYING
ALL I'M GOING TO DO IS HOLD MY BREATH AND JUMP

STRIKER ESCORT TO SECTOR COM PRISON TRANSPORT STILL NOT RESPONDING STILL TAKING EVASIVE ACTION
ACKNOWLEDGED YOU ARE CLEARED TO INTERCEPT
ARMING PULSE CANNONS
WHUMP
WHAT THE

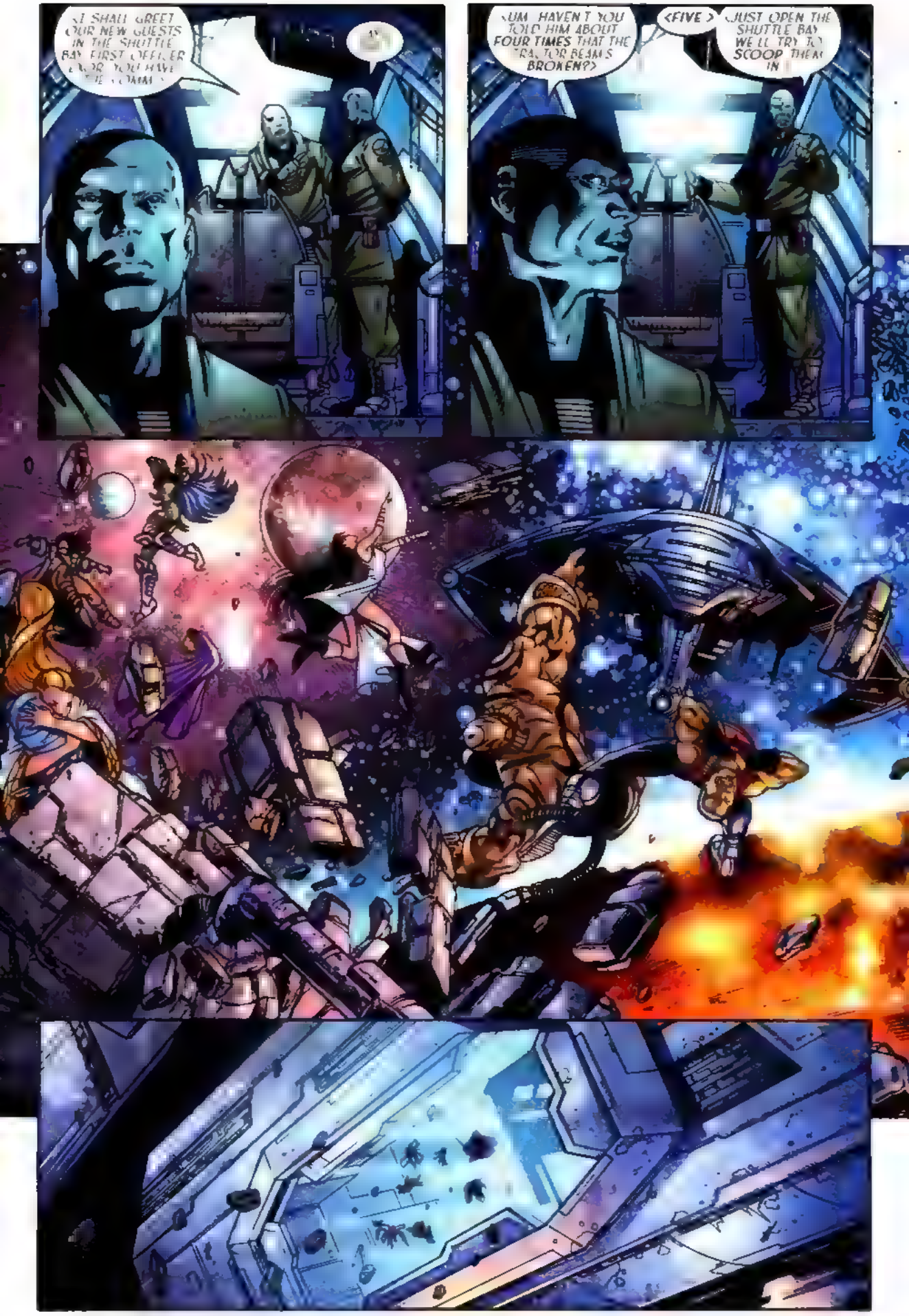
STRIKER
TWO

HOLY !
HE PULLED IT OFF!
QUICKLY! HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!

SEE THAT?
THEN DRAKE AND THE OTHERS DIDN'T GET VERY FAR
POETIC JUSTICE FOR LEAVING US BEHIND
ARE NOT GOING TO FARE MUCH BETTER. YOU COULD PROBABLY PROTECT THIS WHOLE BUBBLE FOR DAYS
BUT JAVIS GONNA HAVE TO SLEEP SOMETIME AND HIS POWER IS ALL THAT KEEPS YOURS WORKING SMOOTHLY
THAT MAY BE HOW THE DREAM WILL END. BUT I THINK IN REAL LIFE THE OXYGEN INSIDE THIS BUBBLE WOULD GIVE OUT BEFORE EITHER OF THEM COULD
THIS WAS YOUR IDEA

PLANS
OF OUR PRISON
INSTALLATION
AND THE ESCAPE
OF SEVERAL
PRISONERS
STRIPPED
TO DEATH
ARE YOU? YOU GO OVER
MY HEAD AND YOUR
TAKING YOUR CASE
LAWBRINGER
QZTR
THE LAST GRUNT WHO
WASTED HIS TIME
CONTINENTS
IN ACCORDANCE
THE NEGATION MILITARY
PENAL CODE I WISH TO
APPEAL MY SENTENCE
TO THE NEXT HIGHER

<MISSION REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL SHIP'S SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP AN UNUSUAL ENERGY DISCHARGE FROM A PLANET IN THE DORGON SYSTEM ON THE NEGATION PERIPHERY >
DESPITE THE POSSIBLE DANGER OF ENCOUNTERING A NEGATION PATROL WE HAVE COME TO INVESTIGATE
<FOR SUCH IS THE CHARTER OF THE STARSHIP OUTREACH TO EXPLORE STRANGE PHENOMENA TO BEHOLD NEW COSMIC WONDERS TO BOL >
<CAPTAIN FLUXOR! I'M PICKING UP EIGHT LIFE SIGNS JUST AHEAD BUT THERE'S NO VESSEL OUT THERE >
NOT SURE SIR BUT IT'S DESTABILIZING
<GET A TRACTOR LOCK ON THEM I WANT THEM ONBOARD BEFORE THE VACUUM KILLS THEM >


I SHALL GREET OUR NEW GUESTS IN THE SHUTTLE BAY. FIRST OFFICER [illegible] YOU HAVE THE [illegible]
UM... HAVEN'T YOU TOLD HIM ABOUT FOUR TIMES THAT THE [illegible] BEAMS BROKEN?
<FIVE>
JUST OPEN THE SHUTTLE BAY. WE'LL TRY TO SCOOP THEM IN

BABY?!
OVER HERE I KEPT HER COVERED UP WHEN IT LOOKED FOR SURE THAT TAVI WOULD COLLAPSE
WELCOME ABOARD!
OR WOULD YOU RATHER I SPEAK THE NEGATION TONGUE? NOBODY SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND KREMMIN ANYMORE

I AM CAPTAIN FLUXOR. YOU'RE ABOARD THE STARSHIP OUTREACH OF THE KREMLIN CONTINUUM, A COLLECTIVE OF INHABITED SYSTEMS DEDICATED TO PEACEFUL TRADE AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE.
PERHAPS YOU HAVE HEARD OF US.
Um NO BUT THANKS FOR
UNTIL RECENTLY, I HAD NOT EVEN HEARD OF THIS NEGATION OF YOURS. TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THEM.
OF COURSE. BUT HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY NOT HAVE HEARD OF THE NEGATION? YOU DO SPEAK THEIR LANGUAGE.
I FIGURE THAT ONE OF MANY MAYBE THEY REWROTE YOUR SPEECH CENTERS WHEN THEY KIDNAPPED US. I DON'T KNOW, BUT BELIEVE ME, WE'RE NOT FROM AROUND
ME ABOUT IT IN SICKBAY.
AND SO WE BARELY MANAGED TO GET OFF THE PRISON WORLD WHEN THE EXTINCTION WAVE HIT. EVERYBODY WE HAD TO LEAVE DOWN THERE IS DEAD NOW.
A TRAGIC WASTE. I WOULD HAVE DEARLY LOVED TO MEET THE OTHERS IF THEY WERE HALF AS FASCINATING AS YOU.
WE HAVE TOLD YOU ABOUT OURSELVES. NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.

FAIR ENOUGH. THE BREMMIN CONTINUUM OVERSAW FREE TRADE BETWEEN NO LESS THAN *THIRTY SEVEN* SYSTEMS IN THIS QUADRANT.
ANY WORLD WAS WELCOME TO JOIN OUR INTERSTELLAR COMMUNITY PROVIDED THAT THEIR INTENTIONS WERE *PEACEFUL*. FOR TWELVE HUNDRED SEASONS WE WERE A BEACON OF PROSPERITY.
SEVENTY FOUR SEASONS AGO, THE NEGATON ARRIVED IN OUR GALAXY. WE HEARD *RUMORS* OF THEIR APPROACH. BUT WE COULD SCARCELY *BELIEVE* THEM.
AFTER ALL, HOW COULD *ONE* CULTURE, *ONE* EMPIRE, POSSIBLY SUBJUGATE THE *REST* OF THE KNOWN *UNIVERSE*? WE DENIED. THEN BARGAINED. THEN PLEADED WHILE OUR WORLDS FELL, ONE BY ONE.

IN TRUTH WE ARE *ALL* THAT REMAINS OF A ONCE GREAT PEOPLE BUT AS LONG AS *WE* LIVE ON SO DOES THE CONTINUUM WE'VE NOT YET GIVEN UP THE FIGHT AND WE WELCOME *ALLIES*

OUR *SCANS* INDICATE THAT SOME OF YOU MAY HARBOR POWER WITHIN THAT RIVALS SOME OF THE NEGATION'S MIGHTIEST FORCES

YOU, LADY EVINLEA, YOU *ALONE* PUT OUT READINGS ON THE ORDER OF A JAWBRINGER!

ARE ENTIRE WORLDS *FULL* OF FOLKS LIKE EVINLEA WHERE I COME FROM

LOOK IF THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU HERE THEN FLY US *HOME* AND WE CAN BRING BACK A WHOLE *ARMY* OF PEOPLE LIKE HER

YES, WE COULD DO THAT BUT WHAT *HEADING* THAT IS WHICH WAY IS YOUR *HOME?*

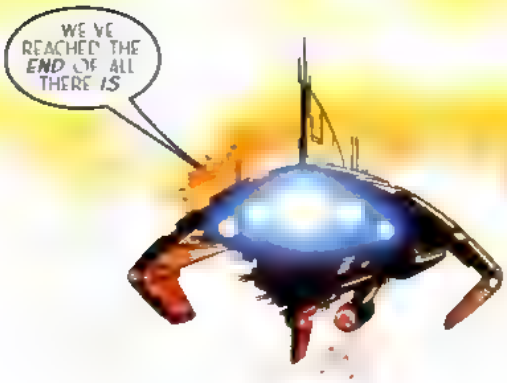
WHICH WAY TO THE NEGATION EMPIRE?

WE'RE ON THE PERIPHERY THEY RULE *EVERYTHING* IN *THIS* DIRECTION

THEN POINT YOUR SHIP *THAT* WAY AND HIT THE AFTERBURNERS

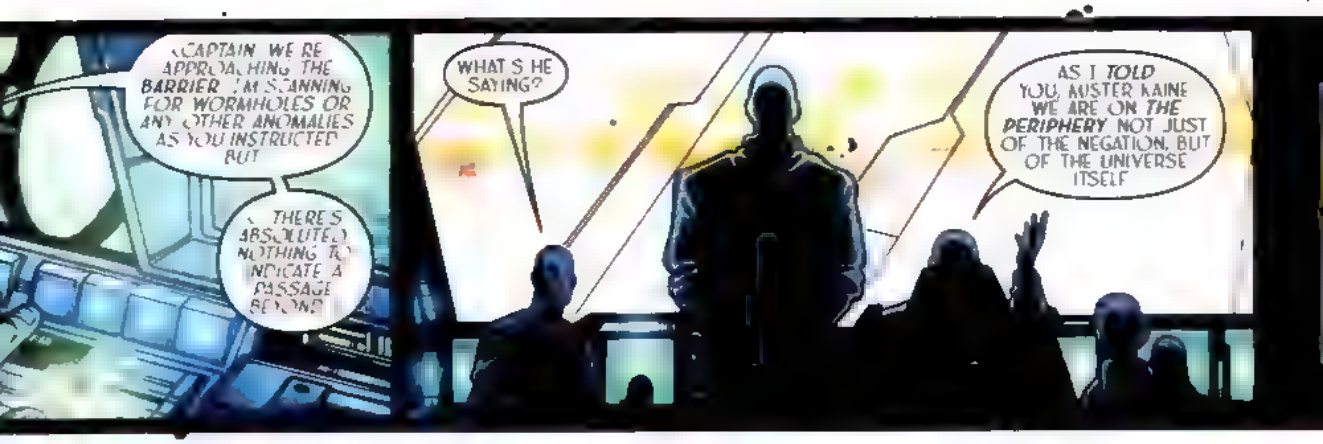
WORTHY

CAPTAIN, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, YOU KNOW THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE
THEN WHERE DID THEY COME FROM FIRST OFFICER? LET'S JUST KEEP GOING.


WE'VE REACHED THE *END* OF ALL THERE *IS*

THERE'S *NOTHING* AHEAD OF US. IF WE PROCEED THE ENTROPIC FORCES YOU SEE OUT THERE WOULD JUST DECONSTRUCT US
I HOPED THAT I WAS WRONG. THAT SOMEHOW THERE *WERE* WORLDS OUT HERE BUT I'VE NEVER BEEN HARDER BUT

BUT IF WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS *TRUE*, THEN
WHAT IS IT? I DON'T GET IT


CAPTAIN, WE'RE APPROACHING THE BARRIER. I'M SCANNING FOR WORMHOLES OR ANY OTHER ANOMALIES AS YOU INSTRUCTED, BUT
THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO INDICATE A PASSAGE BEYOND.
WHAT'S HE SAYING?
AS I TOLD YOU, MISTER KAINE WE ARE ON THE PERIPHERY NOT JUST OF THE NEGATION, BUT OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF

HE MEANS THAT IF THE NEGATION RULES THE WHOLE UNIVERSE AND WE'VE NEVER HEARD OF THE NEGATION
THEN WE'RE NOT FROM AROUND HERE — AT ALL! WE'RE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION OR SOMETHING. THIS ISN'T EVEN OUR UNIVERSE!
THAT IS SO COOL! WHAT WILL I COME UP WITH NEXT?!
THEN THE ONLY WAY WE'LL FIND OUR WAY OUT OF THIS NIGHTMARE IS TO TURN AND HEAD BACK INTO THE TEETH OF THE ENEMY
GOD HELP US. ONLY THE NEGATION HOLDS THE ANSWER TO HOW WE'RE GOING HOME

IS WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN A WORLD
DISPLEASES THE
EMPEROR
ND HIM IN THE
OURTHOUSE AT
TY CENTER
EXPECT
WHAT MAKES
THINK QZTR
TROOPS

I KNOW WHY YOU ARE HERE. KRYZORR KNEW BETTER THAN TO APPROACH UNANNOUNCED.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WERE THINKING.
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY POSSESS YOU TO BRING YOUR PROBLEMS TO ME?
SIR! A COMMANDER! A FACILITY THAT INCARCERATED PRISONERS BROUGHT HERE FROM THE OTHER UNIVERSE POWERFUL PRISONERS SIR!
SEVERAL ESCAPED! I ASK ONLY FOR THE CHANCE TO [illegible] THEM
YOU'RE STARTING TO BORE ME...
HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN REPORTING [illegible] TO APPEAR
YOUR SENTENCE WILL NOW BE CARRIED OUT--
SIR! ONE OF THE ESCAPEES IS FROM A RACE CALLED THE FIRST! THEY'RE LIKE GODS OVER THERE!
THEY'RE LIKE YOU

KEEP TALKING...

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

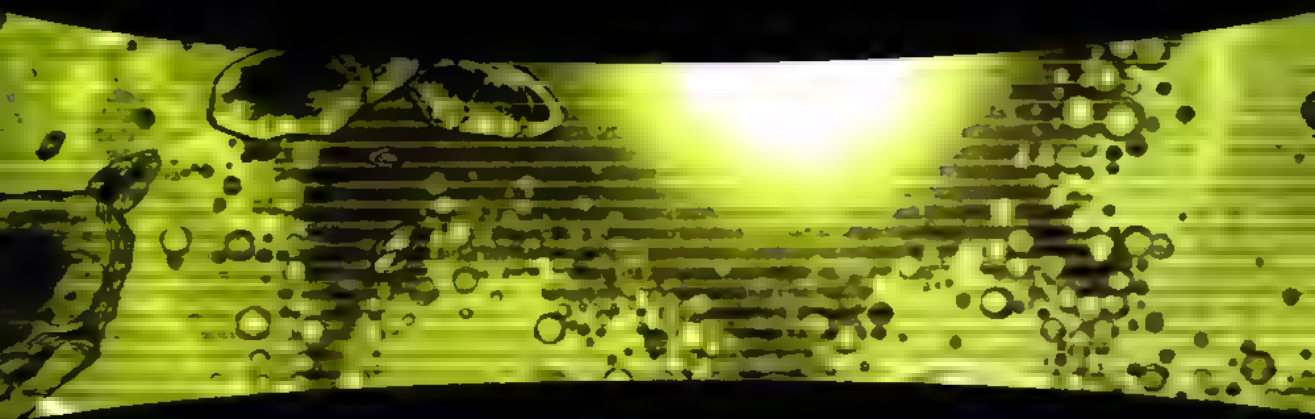
TONY BEDARD
WRITER

PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

DAVE LAMPHEAR
WITH TROY PETERI
LETTERERS



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BART SEARS Art Director * PAM DAVIES Production Director
SYLVIA BRETZ, JANET BECHTLE & RANDY MARTIN Production Assistants
MICHELLE PUGLIESE Freelance Coordinator

ISSUE #4
on sale
MARCH 13th
FIRST STRIKE!
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

NEGATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Hello, Mark, Gina, and the NEGATION crew,

I'm fairly new to CrossGen comics. Now, I'm a guy who enjoys knowing the whole story and I decided that I'd like to regularly get the entire CrossGen line. Anyway, I told my comic shop guy I wanted to start collecting CrossGen. And if that meant I had to drop other comics…so be it. Just this weekend I got NEGATION #1.

NEGATION is cool. I liked issue #1. (I didn't get the PREQUEL, is it still available?) When I read NEGATION I put "voices" to the characters, like it's a cartoon. When I read Kaine's dialogue, I "hear" the guy that voices Green Lantern for the new Justice League cartoon. I think NEGATION would be a neat cartoon someday. Any plans for CrossGen comics to go into animation?

Well, I've taken up enough space. Thanks for a great bunch of comics.

Dean Siemsen
Northumberland, PA

And thanks for your letter, Dean. I'm sure the NEGATION PREQUEL is still available. Check with any of our Premier Retailers, listed later in this issue; there are a number of them located in Pennsylvania. If you have no luck there, contact Midtown Comics online through the CrossGen Mail. Cartoons and animated features are most likely somewhere in our future, but for now we're just concentrating on giving you guys the best books we can make.

✦

Dear Machinations,

Okay, you got me. You got me good. With a whole page of dramatic shadow set-up, I should have seen it coming. You guys spent all issue setting up Komptin, the disgruntled warden. Komptin, the seething rage. Komptin, the Bulky Big Bad. Don't mess with Komptin. I've had a headshot sketch of Komptin from Paul since the San Diego Comic-Con (Thanks again, Paul!). He looks ugly, thick, and mean (Komptin, not Paul). Both Paul and Tony really talked him up as the primo bad guy in the book.

Bulk is cool. But bulk that can fit into the trunk of a Volkswagen…is just freakin' hilarious. It all just hit me in that irrational way that makes you unable to stop laughing. Months of set-up and anticipation that paid off with a Yoda on steroids. Tears, gasping for breath, dropping the comic…I just died. And then Komptin knocked everyone senseless anyway. The way he steps on his head bone ribbons and rolls around…like a toy… wowder… wheel… BWAHAHAHAHAHAHA! Sorry! I can't help it! I know he could knock me into next week, but…but…he's so LITTLE!

Excellent first issue! I know that eventually some of these prisoners are going to get out, but it won't be quick. I collect the whole CrossGen Universe, and all your writers are masters of the "slow burn," and Tony and Mark are no exceptions. Lots of Great Escape shenanigans to ensue. I wager. I will enjoy every panel until they finally catch Komptin with his pants down and blow the joint.

Thanks again for the best clean laugh I've ever had over a comic.

John Talcott
jtalcott@ENG.LACITY.ORG

John, that was one of my favorite bits of business, too, and complete credit goes to Tony, who (you might agree) has one wicked sense of humor. But you're right, for all his diminutive size Komptin is no one to take for granted, as you'll soon see. Thanks for writing!

✦

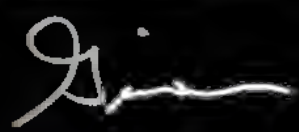
Hello, NEGATION folks,

I just wanted to let you all know how much I've enjoyed the book so far. I've been a Mark Waid fan for a long time, and I'm glad to see he is still plotting the story even while he's not writing the script.

I am curious, how does this book tie in with the Negation from CRUX? Didn't CrossGen say from the beginning that they wouldn't force fans to buy more than one title to get whole stories? I hope that Mr. Waid and the others stick to that ideal. Maybe I'm just confused a little. Either way I'll look forward to the title each month to see how it all pans out. Keep doing great work!

Andy Rogers
Grand Rapids, MI

First off, Andy, I should tell you and all the other NEGATION fans that, beginning this issue, Tony Bedard will be fully responsible for the writing chores. His contribution has increased with every issue up to this point, up to and including writing all of the dialogue. The press of other work just made it impossible for Mark Waid to continue with NEGATION, but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the effort he did put into the book. As for your question, the Negation here and in CRUX is one and the same. And, no, you'll never have to buy more than one of these books to get the full story about what's going on in it. Our Universe is very closely integrated, but we aim to stand by our word. For what I think is a perfect illustration of how we fulfill our commitment, you might want to compare SIGIL #20 and MERIDIAN #28 (both ably written by Barbara Kesel) each of which tells the same story from different points of view. No SIGIL reader needs to read MERIDIAN to get Sam's whole story and no MERIDIAN reader needs to read SIGIL to get Sophie's. Hope this sets it straight for you, and thanks for your letter.



via snail mail:
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NEGATION (in the subject line)

THE FIRST #16

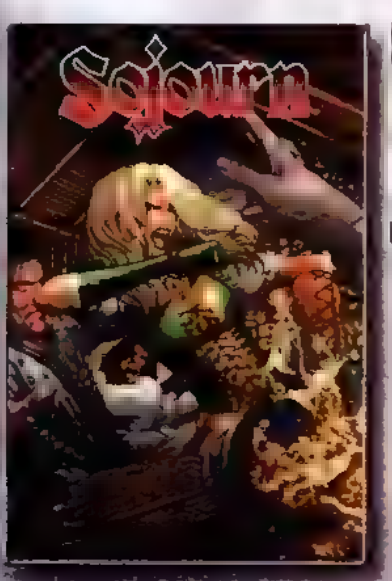
BARBARA KESEL
ANDREA DI VITO
ROB HUNTER
ROB SCHWAGER

IN STORES **NOW**

MYSTIC #21

TONY BEDARD
FABRIZIO FIORENTINO
MATT RYAN
ANDREW CROSSLEY

IN STORES **NOW**



SOJOURN #8

RON MARZ
GREG LAND
DREW GERACI
CAESAR RODRIGUEZ

IN STORES **NOW**

SCION #21

RON MARZ
JIM CHEUNG
DON HILLSMAN II
JUSTIN PONSOR

IN STORES FEBRUARY 20th

CRUX #11

MARK WAID
ANDY SMITH
MARK FARMER
JEROMY COX

IN STORES FEBRUARY 20th

MERIDIAN #21

BARBARA KESEL
STEVE MCNIVEN
TOM SIMMONS
MORRY HOLLOWELL

IN STORES FEBRUARY 27th

RUSE #5

MARK WAID
BUTCH GUICE
MIKE PERKINS
LAURA DEPUY

IN STORES FEBRUARY 27th

THE PATH
PREQUEL

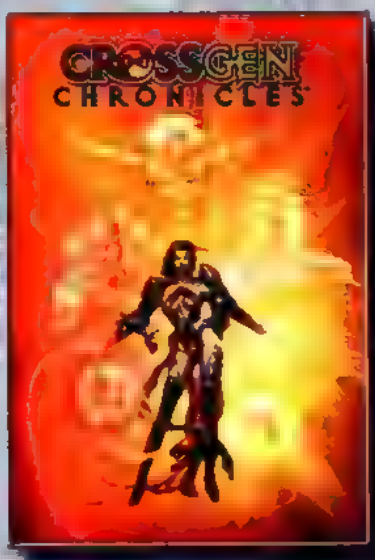
RON MARZ
BART SEARS
MARK PENNINGTON
MICHAEL ATIYEH

IN STORES FEBRUARY 27th

CHUCK DIXON TAKES AIM AT SIGIL

PENCILS BY SCOT EATON
INKS BY ANDREW HENNESSY
COLOR BY WIL QUINTANA

#21 IN STORES NOW



CROSSGEN CHRONICLES

BARBARA KESEL ESTEBAN MAROTO NICK BELL

TWO BIRTHS, ONE FATE

ISSUE #6 ON SALE FEBRUARY 20th

TONY B

Conducted by CrossGen's guest interviewer: Jen Contino

The Negation is coming and the CrossGen Universe may soon be at its mercy! Will Kaine and his eclectic mix of friends be able to save the day, or will we all soon be at the mercy of a crazy omnipotent creature? Scribe Tony Bedard is preparing to take us on an adventure that will be unlike anything you've ever experienced in the CGU.

CROSSGEN: What's coming up this year in NEGATION?

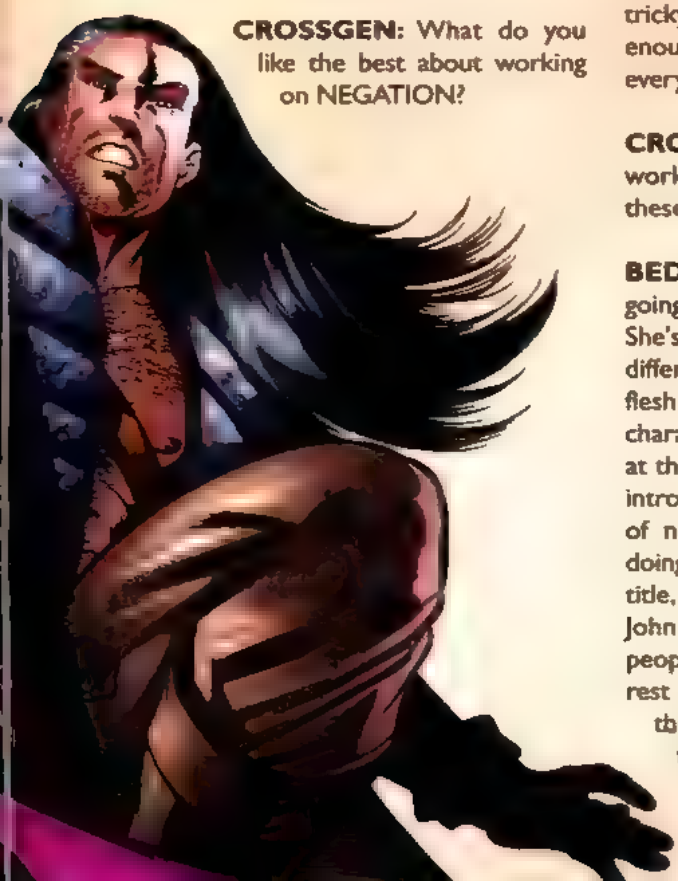
BEDARD: The series will move very quickly. It will go at a break-neck pace because we have a large cast and you can never be too sure who will live or die. We will have a high body count. The escapees will be moving through Negation Space from one world to the next trying to get information on their enemy.

The biggest goal is to get back to their own universe

EDARD

and that means taking down the emperor of the Negation, Charon. So we'll see a clash with the Lawbringers (The Negation version of the First), who will be very formidable foes. We'll also see the creation of a Sigil-Bearer for the Negation. We're going to flesh out Komptin a whole lot – he's a principal recurring villain. We're going to see the two separate groups of escapees get together, although that will be a difficult reunion for them. Plus, there's a character called Zaida, and her baby will be part of an interesting development that will prove to be a huge deal in the series as a whole. Charon is very interested in her child. We'll also see betrayal amongst the fugitives since they all have different degrees of loyalty to each other. There are certain ones who'll try to cut a deal for themselves with the Negation. We're also going to have CROSSGEN CHRONICLES #7 in April that reveals the origin story of Kaine and his background. This story is going to impact greatly on how well the team does together.

CROSSGEN: What do you like the best about working on NEGATION?



BEDARD: Two things: the team I'm working with and the freedom of operating in this whole other universe and just making it up as we go along. It's a terrific challenge and a lot of fun, actually.

CROSSGEN: What's the most challenging part about working on NEGATION?

BEDARD: Trying to come up with something you haven't seen before. The nature of Negation Space is that it's a chaotic, unpredictable place. Some of the fundamental laws of physics work differently there, so finding a way to show how utterly alien that place is can be very challenging. Every race and every environment we encounter should have some unique twist to it.

Just as hard as that is the expository burden that accompanies this particular book. I find that I have to explain a lot not only about Negation Space, but about the regular CGU, because we have a cross-section here of the inhabitants from the entire CGU. So it's really tricky to tell a clean story and yet provide enough information that you understand who everyone is.

CROSSGEN: What other series are you working on? Why should fans check out these books?

BEDARD: I'm writing MYSTIC and we're going to have Giselle, the hero, grow up a bit. She's going to be exploring her world and the different schools of magic so we're going to flesh out her world a great deal and give her character some depth that she doesn't have at this point. While we do that we're going to introduce a lot of new villains and cover a lot of new territory in that book. Also I'll be doing a third book, which will be a horror title, with Karl Moline (*Joss Whedon's Fray*) and John Dell. It's got ghosts, monsters, crazy people, and it's not as directly linked to the rest of the CGU big back-story as some of the other titles. It's the first strictly horror title and will be really messed up. We're trying to creep people out and shock them as much as possible!

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Negation
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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged a stellar empire known as:

the Negation

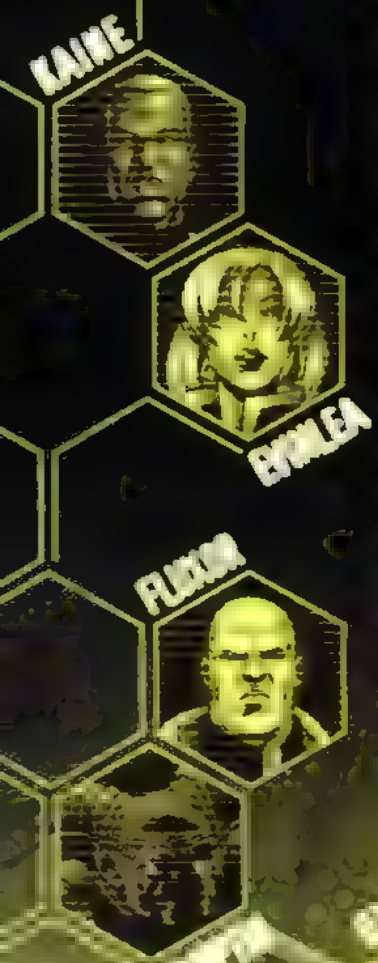
But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities...

...and He covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred unlucky souls were abducted from scores of planets in our universe and brought to His dark realm. There, in a brutal prison camp, they were tortured and tested, the better to judge humanity's strengths and weaknesses for the conquest to come.

Then a prisoner named Obregon Kaine led an uprising against the local Negation commander, Komptin. Though most of the inmates perished in the bloody riot, one group of escapees was rescued by a friendly starship crew, led by Captain Fluxor.

Meanwhile, Komptin faced a court-martial for losing the prison facility. His only hope of avoiding execution was to appeal the verdict to Lawbringer Øztr, a being that inspires fear in even the most stalwart Negation warrior...



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THIS, GENTLEMEN IS WHAT COMES OF DENYING THE NEGATION HER FULL TITHE

TEN THOUSAND PEOPLE TURNED TO YOU FOR LEADERSHIP LOOK AT WHAT YOUR BLACK MARKET BROUGHT THEM

NOW IF YOU WANT THE SURVIVORS TO LIVE, YOU WILL TELL ME WHO ORGANIZED

AHEM!

GENERAL KRYZORR SIR! HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN REPORTING FOR DUTY PLEASE ACCEPT MY NEW ORDERS

KOMPTIN SENT YOU TO BE EXECUTED!

COULDN'T YOU EVEN FIND THE AWBRINGER? HOW DID YOU GET BACK ON BOARD ANYWAY

WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH THESE PRISONERS I'LL TOSS YOU OUT AN AIR LOCK MYSELF!

SORRY YOUR HONOR BUT HE'S REACTING JUST LIKE I SAID HE WOULD

STAND BY...

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN MY SEAL UPON AN ORDER WAS NEVER QUESTIONED, MUCH LESS IGNORED

AWBRINGER OZTR
GENERAL KRYZORR, I AM CLEARING YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE. YOU WILL NOW SEE TO KOMPTIN'S NEEDS.
NO!
PLEASE
HAVE MERCY!
I DO NOT JOKE, GENERAL. YOU SENT THIS OFFICER TO ME FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT.
I HAVE DISMISSED THE CHARGES.

THE CASTELLAN WILL REQUIRE AN INTERDICTOR-CLASS TRANSPORT, FULLY ARMED AND MANNED BY YOUR BEST FORCE RECON CREW.
WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO AVENGE ME OVER A WORTHLESS
EXCUSE ME, GENERAL. THE ORBITAL DEFENSE GRID ON SENKIEM JUST PICKED UP AN UNREGISTERED VESSEL.
THAT'S THEM. GIVE KOMPTIN HIS SHIP AND CREW, AND WARM UP YOUR JUMP GATE...
...THEN YOU CAN CONTACT THE EMPEROR AND TELL HIM THAT ALL UNREGULATED COMMERCE IN THIS SECTOR HAS BEEN ELIMINATED.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO IF HE DECIDES HE HAS TO KILL HER?
KAINE WHAT IF HE HAS TO GET RID OF EVANGELINE?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE'D EVER HAVE TO DO THAT? OR THAT IT'S EVEN POSSIBLE?
SHE'S A GODDESS, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
QUESTION SHE'S NOT INVINCIBLE AND SHE'S A THREAT TO HIS LEADERSHIP
YOU MEAN HE'S A THREAT TO HER LEADERSHIP
WHEN DID WE HAVE A LEADER? WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE TRYING TO START HERE?
NOTHING
OH, THIS IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING WE WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH SOONER OR

I SAID STEALTH ORB, NOT STANDARD ORB!!
NO, SIR YOU DID NOT! I TRIED TO RELAY THE ORDER
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU? COULDN'T YOU SEE I WAS TESTING YOU?!
PROBLEM, SIR? BLAME?
TORPEDO ROOM! FIRE A FULL SPREAD FROM AFT LAUNCHERS!
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT, FULL SPREAD? THIS IS THE LAST FUNCTIONAL TORPEDO WE HAVE!
THEN WE'D BETTER MAKE IT COUNT

THAT'S AN INTERDICTOR! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO
NOT NOW FOOL!
SIR WE'RE BEING HAILED
AHHH PRISONER KAINE PRISONER EVINLEA SO IS YOU

OTHERS?
KOMPTIN
DEAD
LOT LATELY
TELL ME EVINLEA ARE YOU STILL USING PRISONER JAVI FOR A TRUTH OR HAVE YOU REGAINED YOUR OWN
WORM AND I'LL SHOW YOU HOW STRONG
EVEN ASK?
AM UNDER ORDERS TO DELIVER YOU ALIVE TO THIS SECTOR'S LAWBRINGER HE'S VERY EAGER TO MEET ONE OF THE FIRST
CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO KAINE AND THE REST SO NATURALLY I FIND MYSELF WONDERING EVINLEA
BREATH?
?

DIVE!

KILL THEIR ENGINES!
OUTPOST DOWN

BOHICA

REPORT!
FOOL! YOU'RE
THROUGH
PRETENDING
YOU
NO.
ALIVE
KAINE
LAUGH!
LANDING PARTIES
DEAD!
DARE
BOHICA STANDS
ACRONYM
WORSE

NOEEC

KOMPTON WILL ARRIVE SOON TO FINISH THE JOB WE HAVE TO GET MOVING
ARE ALWAYS MORE INTERESTED IN CHASING TAIL THAN IN GETTING THE SHIP REPAIRED! AND EVERY TIME YOU MAKE A MESS OF THINGS HERE COMES EXOR TO BAIL YOU OUT! WELL NO MORE!
BREAK IT UP PEOPLE! WE'RE GOING!
YOUR CAPTAIN

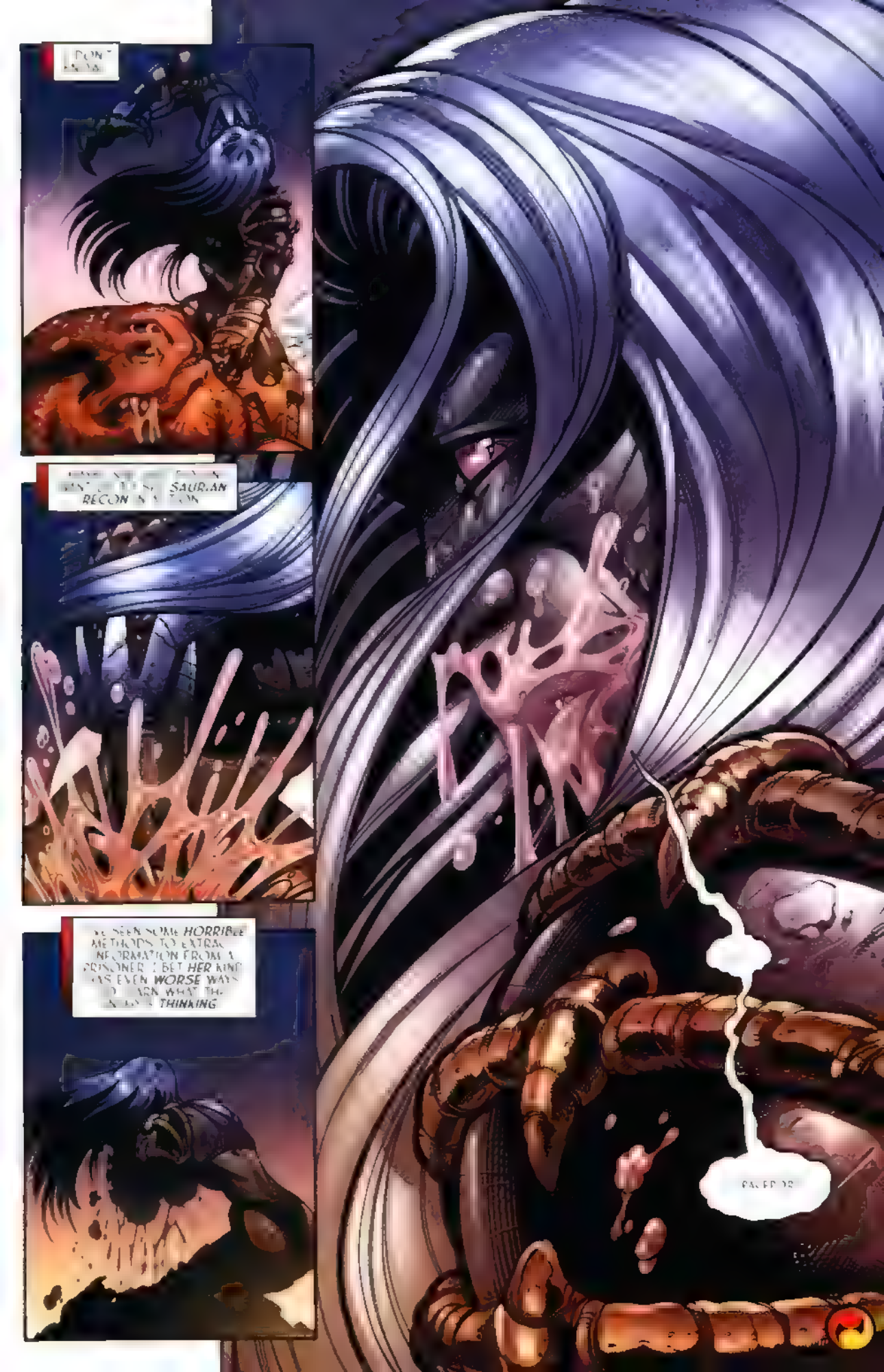
I'M GUESSING THAT GLOW OVER THE RIDGE IS THE NEGATION OUTPOST THEY SAID WAS NEARBY
GOD, I HOPE SO. IT MAY BE HOSTILE TERRITORY, BUT IT'S OUR BEST BET TO KEEP FROM FREEZING TO DEATH
SEVEN SPIRITS... WHAT'S THAT?
UNDER THE ICE...
THEY'RE VECTORING IN ON THE CRASH SITE. MUST BE A RAPID RESPONSE PATROL.
LOOKS LIKE A LAKE OR A SEA UNDER THIS ICE. AND WHOEVER LIVES HERE
DOWN THERE

ABOVE WATER
READY
BIG
WE NEED TO FIND A SHIP TO STEAL WE MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO FLY IT ONCE WE'RE IN IT BUT IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE
INTO TOWN START ASKING QUESTIONS AND TRY TO ACT INCONSPICUOUS, RIGHT?
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO KNOW
I WAS A RECON SCOUT IN THE SAURIAN ARMY I CAN GET THE INTELLIGENCE WE NEED BUT YOU HAVE TO LET ME GO IN ALONE
PLAN?
I CAN'T SAY JUST PLEASE TRUST ME I CAN DO THIS

SHE SURE SEEMED EAGER TO GET OFF ON HER OWN
MAYBE SHE THINKS WE SMELL BAD
WARM
NO, SHE WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT HER SKILLS. I COULD TELL SHE'D BEEN TO WAR THE FIRST TIME I MET HER
SO WHY THE SECRECY?

GORRNK?
GLIH
SLASH
WHAM
GORRNK!

SHRIIP


I DON'T
SAURIAN
RECON
I'VE SEEN SOME HORRIBLE METHODS TO EXTRACT INFORMATION FROM A PRISONER. I BET HER KIND HAS EVEN WORSE WAYS TO LEARN WHAT THE KNOW. THINKING
PACED

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But omnipotence isn't enough. Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers are abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied. Some captives bear a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, giving them a variety of superhuman abilities. Others hail from inherently powerful races, such as the lovely Evinlea of the godlike First, or the delusional Corrin of Atlantis. The hulking, tattooed Matua comes from a world of magic, while the reptilian alien known simply as the Lizard Lady is a born warrior. Most captives, however, are ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine leads an uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. Kaine and the other escapees then encounter some friendly fugitives — the blue-skinned Kremmin — only to end up crash-landing on an icy planet.

Now, Kaine and his comrades search the frigid Negation outpost for the Lizard Lady, who embarked on a solo recon mission...

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Situation Report - Proconsul Gorg. Negation substation 5427:
I hereby request official sanction to TERMINATE my new commanding officer.
As evidence of his crimes, I present the disturbing events which began at my senior staff briefing a mere ten hours ago...
IN THE NAME OF CHARON,
ALL-FATHER OF THE NEGATION
..GOD-EMPEROR OF THE UNIVERSE
..I CALL THIS MEETING TO ORDER

MAY YOUR WISDOM GUIDE US MAY OUR ACTIONS PLEASE YOU
WE ARE YOURS, O CHARON BLESSED BE YOUR NAME
THE FIRST ITEM THIS MORNING IS THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PATROLMAN BURG
WE STILL HAVE NOT RECOVERED A BODY, BUT THE BLOOD FOUND NEAR JUNCTION FORTY-SEVEN WAS DEFINITELY HIS
I WANT AN ARREST BY--
WHAM
HROONK!
THERE HAD BETTER BE A GOOD REASON FOR THIS SACRILEGE!

THERE IS
YOU THE C.O. OF THIS OUTPOST?
I AM GORG PROCONSUL OF NEGATION SUBSTATION 5427 AND YOU ARE ?
YOUR NEW BOSS UNTIL MY MISSION HERE IS DONE
MY NAME'S KOMPTIN. I'M ON ORDERS FROM LAWBRINGER QZTR

WANT TO CHECK MY CREDENTIALS?
THE LAWBRINGER'S SEAL IS ALL I NEED TO SEE. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?
MOSTLY, YOU CAN STAY OUT OF THE WAY.
BRING IN THE PRISONERS!
THESE HOLDOVERS FROM THE KREMMIN CONTINUUM CRASH LANDED A FEW KLIKS NORTHEAST OF YOUR OUTPOST
YES. THE RAPID-RESPONSE TEAM I SENT...
WASN'T RAPID ENOUGH A FEW OTHERS FROM THE CRASH GOT AWAY
IT'S THOSE ESCAPEES THAT THE LAWBRINGER WANTS
THEY RE ALIENS, AND THEY ARE UNLIKE ANYTHING THAT S EVER SET FOOT ON THIS SNOWBALL

THE LONGER THEY RUN LOOSE HERE THE WORSE IT'LL BE FOR ALL OF YOU
PUBLIC EXECUTION TONIGHT
PUBLIC EXECUTION TONIGHT
WE...
NO SIGN OF HER WE MAY HAVE TO ASSUME SHE'S BEEN CAPTURED
OR THAT SHE FROZE TO DEATH

POSSIBLE BUT I DOUBT IT THE LIZARD LADY'S A SOLDIER. A SURVIVOR
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING WHEN SHE VOLUNTEERED TO SCOUT AHEAD
ALL THE SAME, SOMETHING MUST'VE GONE WRONG
PATROL SEVEN, REPORT
THIS IS PATROL SEVEN WE'RE CHECKING THE SOUTH PERIMETER, NEAR JUNCTION TWENTY ALL CLEAR SO FAR
THEY'RE GONE. SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE LOOKING FOR
PLISH

WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY WHERE I *LEFT* YOU? I'VE BEEN *LOOKING* FOR YOU FOR *HOURS*
WE *HAD* TO MOVE A NEGATION PATROL SWEPT THROUGH THERE AN HOUR AFTER YOU LEFT
NEVER MIND *THAT* WHAT HAPPENED TO *YOU*?
YEAH, YOU LOOK *DIFFERENT*.
I'LL EXPLAIN *LATER*. RIGHT NOW I HAVE INFORMATION THAT WE MUST ACT ON *FAST*.

KOMPTIN'S SHIP IS WELL GUARDED BUT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN THE OTHER VESSELS ARE FAIRLY EXPOSED
OKAY WE'LL GO FOR THE SHIP FARTHEST FROM KOMPTIN'S BUT WE'RE GOING TO NEED A DIVERSION
MEANING ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR THE GOOD OF THE GROUP RIGHT?
THE SAME WAY YOU SET UP THALIA BACK AT THE PRISON
I'LL DO IT

THAT WASN'T KAINE'S FAULT. MALIA CHOSE TO GIVE HER LIFE AND I WON'T HAVE YOU CHEAPENING IT.
NO, REALLY -- I'LL DO IT
YOU HAD BETTER REMEMBER WHOM YOU ADDRESS, LITTLE HUMAN.
OR WHAT? YOUR ABILITIES ARE STILL DANGEROUSLY UNSTABLE. MINE ARE NEARLY BACK TO NORMAL.
DON'T GOAD HER, MATUA.
NO WAY. THE ENEMY HAS TO PUT UP WITH THIS SORT OF CRAP.

STEP AWAY FROM THE EVIDENCE. OUR JURISDICTION SUPERCEDES YOURS.
HROOONK!
PATROL TWELVE TO PROCONSUL GORG! WE HAVE FOUND PATROLMAN BURG'S CORPSE, BUT
I SAID STEP AWAY FROM THE EVIDENCE!
SIR, THE VISITORS ARE TRYING TO TAKE BURG'S BODY! SITUATION DETERIORATING, PLEASE ADVISE!
YOU PEOPLE ARE FINE AT SAYING YOUR PRAYERS, BUT NOT SO GOOD AT LISTENING
SO FOR THE LAST TIME: BACK OFF, OR I WILL FIRE!
THWAP
TRACKER TEAM, THIS IS KOMPTIN!
YES, SIR?
DROP WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND GET TO THE SPACEPORT! WE HAVE A REPORT OF AN INTRUDER

I SAID HALT!
LOOK, I'M NOT ARMED! I JUST WANT TO TALK!
FIRE!
KEEP HAMMERING AT HIM!
THIS ONE!
NO, WAIT--!

GOTTA FIGURE OUT HOW TO TAKE OFF *FAST*...BEFORE MATUA GETS KILLED
EVINLEA, WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?* YOU DON'T STOP FOLLOWING MY LEAD *IN THE MIDDLE* OF AN OP--
DO *NOT* TELL ME WHAT TO *DO*, KAINE
OKAY, EVINLEA *YOU'RE* IN CHARGE. WANNA SHOW ME HOW TO FLY AN *AMPHIBIAN SPACESHIP* NOW?
DID *YOU* ACQUIRE SUCH INFORMATION WHEN YOU SCOUTED THIS FACILITY?
SORRY

OKAY, um. STAND CLEAR OF THE DOORS! HERE GOES NOTHING
TEK
PEEP
FOOP
KCHAK
Pre-launch sequence initiated.
CHHPSSSHT
Sub-orbital thrusters warming up.
Life-support nominal. Stand by--
--for atmosphere conversion.
FWOOSH
Oh, MY GOD

OH, THIS IS CLASSIC
JAVI, WHICH ONE TRIGGERED THE LAUNCH SEQUENCE?
I DON'T KNOW!
OPEN THE DOOR!
JUMPSHIP SEVEN, YOU ARE UNAUTHORIZED FOR TAKEOFF!
REPEAT JUMPSHIP SEVEN, YOU ARE UN-

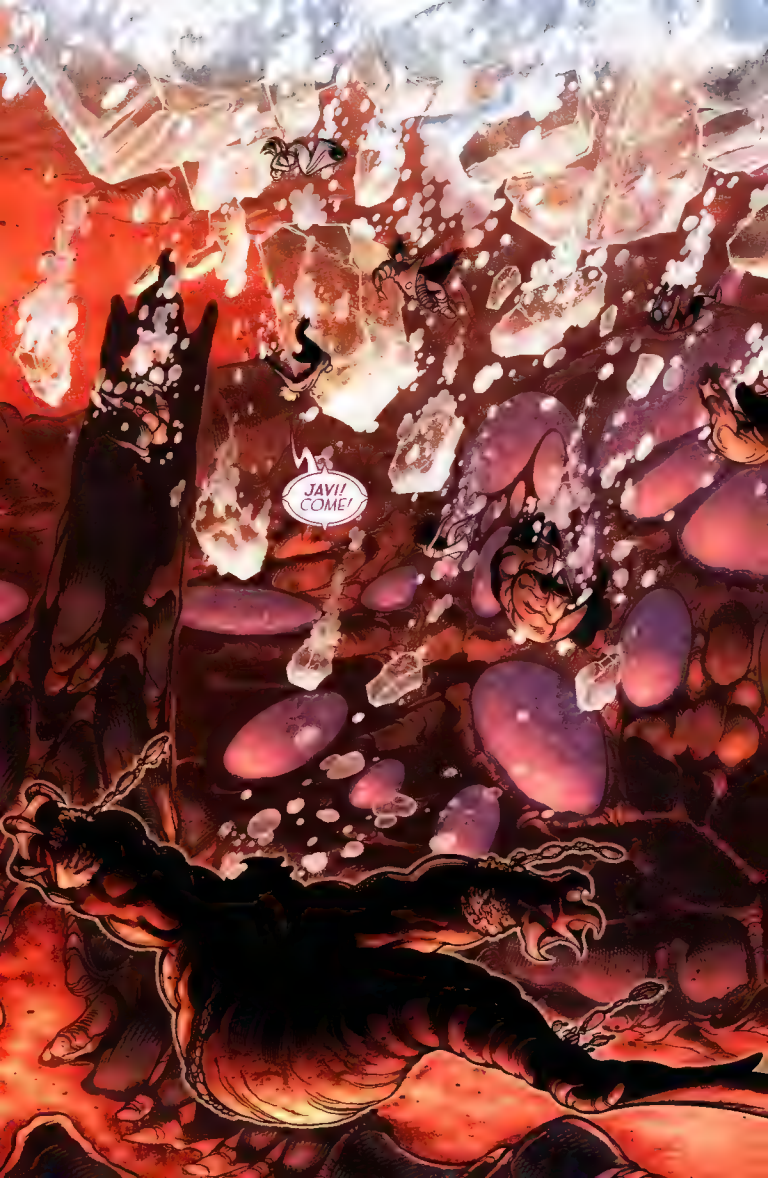
AHH!
FSSSH
PSSSH
KRIK
HOWZAT, Boss?
I SHOULD'VE SUMMONED YOU GIRLS IN THE FIRST PLACE
You summon, we slay
BOSS! LOOK OUT!

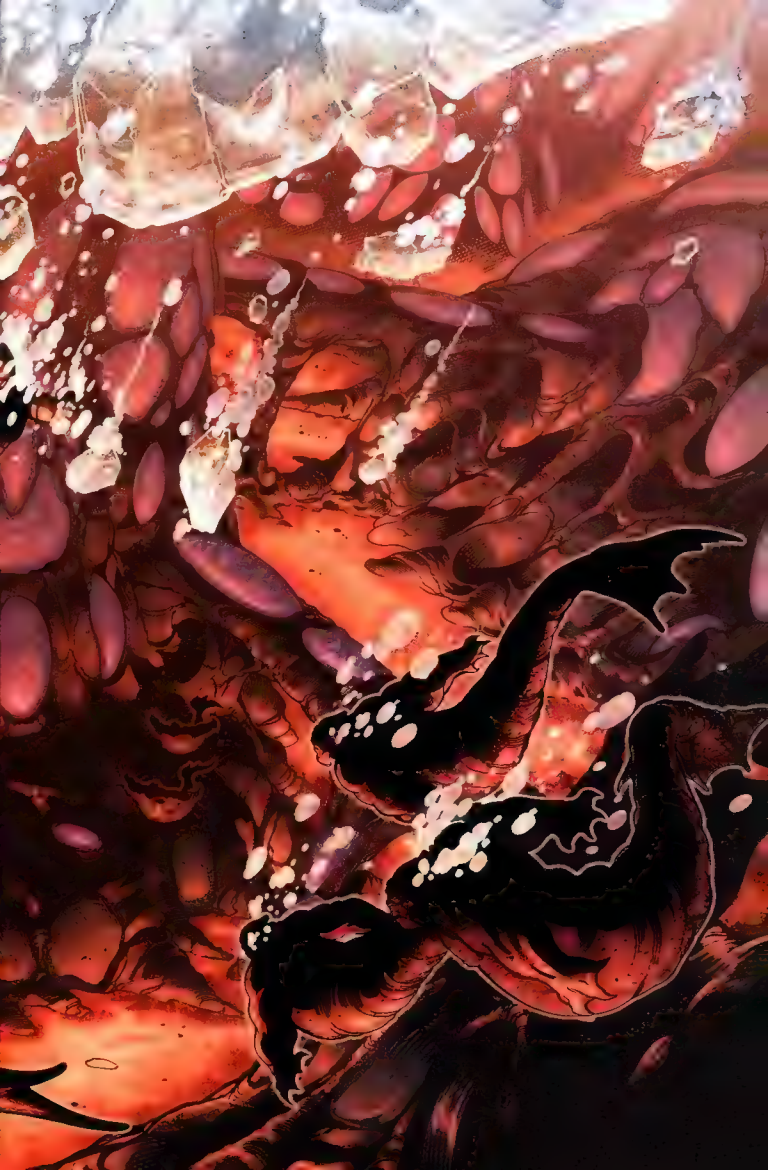
EVERYONE OKAY?!
UNH!
NO
TARGETS SIGHTED! COMMENCING CAPTURE!
SEPARATE THE MALE AND FEMALE! HIS TOUCH REGULATES HER POWER!
HROOONK!

HAHA A
HROOONK!
JAVIII--!?
-LRNK!
HRONNK!
ALL THAT POWER
AND NO JAV
JAVIIIEEAAARRRHHHH--

KRAKA
THOOM

krik
kik
kik
KRAK
KRAKKA
BOHICA
SHLOOSH


JAVI! COME!



BRACE YOURSELVES
WE'RE LEAVING
WELL THAT WAS A DISASTER
FWASH!
FWASH!
FWASH!
FWASH!
THAT VOICE INSIDE MY HEAD
THAT WAS ME DID NO ONE TELL YOU I WAS A TELEPATH?
CAN YOU
CAN YOU READ THOUGHTS AS WELL AS, YOU KNOW, SEND THEM?
YES, BUT I DON'T MAKE A HABIT OF BROWSING THROUGH YOUR MIND, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WONDERING
HONEYMOON PRISONER EXPEDITION TONIGHT
NO, IT'S NOT THAT IT'S
WELL, I THINK I HAVE A PLAN TO GET US OFF THIS ICE CUBE --WITHOUT A SHIP
BUT IT MEANS HAVING TO RESCUE THOSE BALD BLUE FOOLS FROM THE FIRING SQUAD

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

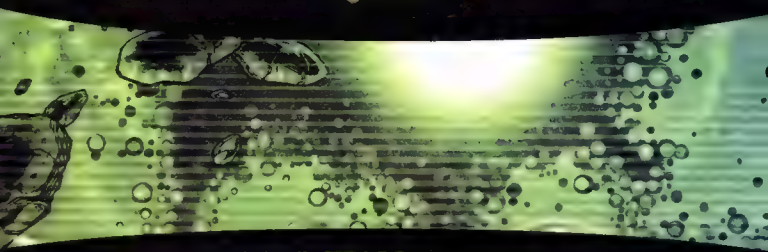
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
with LIZ LEWIS
COLORISTS

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe
created by
Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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Negation
ISSUE #6
on sale
MAY 22nd
Tony Bedard
Andy Smith
Brad Vancata
Jason Lambert
VANCATA
MILLA

STUDIO INSIGHTS

Written by: CrossGen's guest writer, Jen Contino

The Negation are the baddest of the bad...the vilest of the vile...the...well, you get the idea. They AREN'T very nice people, beings, creatures, whatever! In an effort to keep you, the readers, safe and sound from the horrible Negation, we've gotten some inside information about the series from Paul Pelletier, Dave Meikis, and James Rochelle, the penciler, inker, and colorist, respectively.

"The story moves at a really fast pace and there is all kinds of stuff going on at all times within the groups," enthuses Rochelle. "It gets a little more complicated as the story progresses. The group splits off into two with Obregon Kaine leading one faction and Mercer Drake — a Sigil-Bearer — leading another. Both groups want to get home and have to figure out how. That's the fun part! NEGATION is an inspired thrill-ride through an alternative universe that reminds me of a cross between *Star Wars* and *Big Trouble in Little China*."

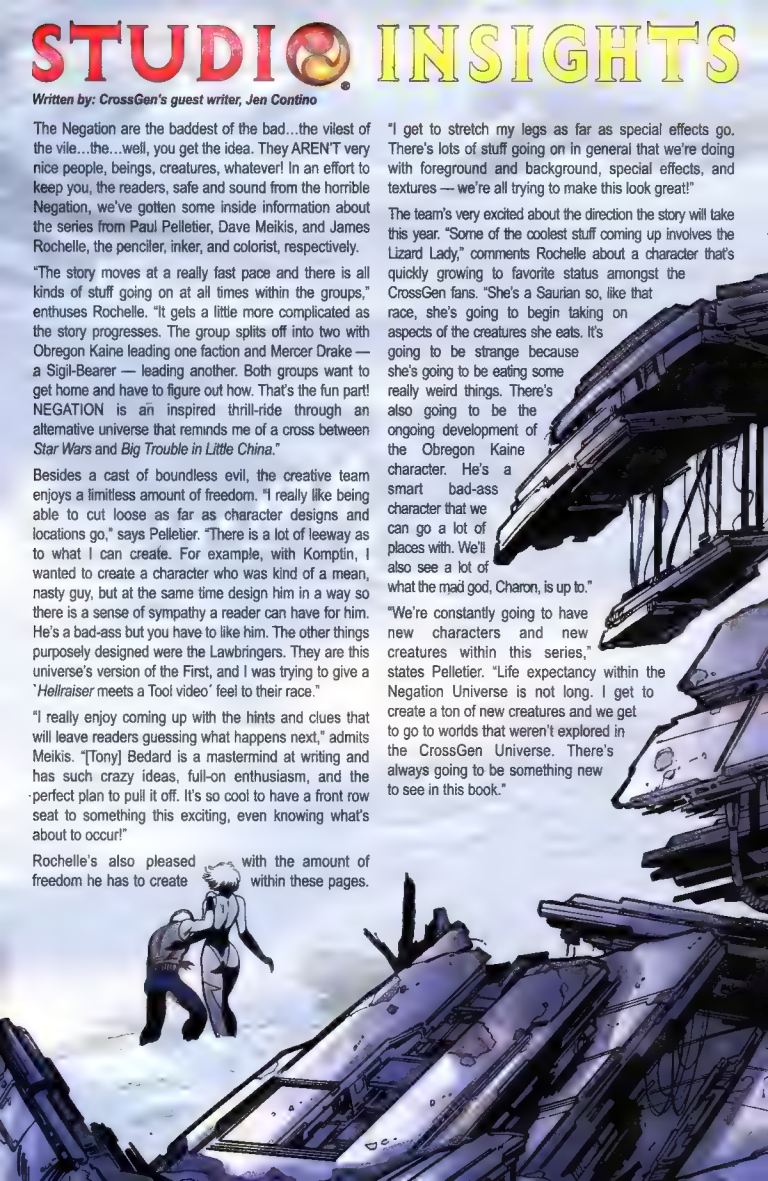
Besides a cast of boundless evil, the creative team enjoys a limitless amount of freedom. "I really like being able to cut loose as far as character designs and locations go," says Pelletier. "There is a lot of leeway as to what I can create. For example, with Komptin, I wanted to create a character who was kind of a mean, nasty guy, but at the same time design him in a way so there is a sense of sympathy a reader can have for him. He's a bad-ass but you have to like him. The other things purposely designed were the Lawbringers. They are this universe's version of the First, and I was trying to give a '*Hellraiser* meets a Tool video' feel to their race."

"I really enjoy coming up with the hints and clues that will leave readers guessing what happens next," admits Meikis. "[Tony] Bedard is a mastermind at writing and has such crazy ideas, full-on enthusiasm, and the perfect plan to pull it off. It's so cool to have a front row seat to something this exciting, even knowing what's about to occur!"

Rochelle's also pleased with the amount of freedom he has to create within these pages. "I get to stretch my legs as far as special effects go. There's lots of stuff going on in general that we're doing with foreground and background, special effects, and textures — we're all trying to make this look great!"

The team's very excited about the direction the story will take this year. "Some of the coolest stuff coming up involves the Lizard Lady," comments Rochelle about a character that's quickly growing to favorite status amongst the CrossGen fans. "She's a Saurian so, like that race, she's going to begin taking on aspects of the creatures she eats. It's going to be strange because she's going to be eating some really weird things. There's also going to be the ongoing development of the Obregon Kaine character. He's a smart bad-ass character that we can go a lot of places with. We'll also see a lot of what the mad god, Charon, is up to."

"We're constantly going to have new characters and new creatures within this series," states Pelletier. "Life expectancy within the Negation Universe is not long. I get to create a ton of new creatures and we get to go to worlds that weren't explored in the CrossGen Universe. There's always going to be something new to see in this book."



CROSSGEN
comics
NEGATION
6
JUNE
$2.95
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Tony Bedard
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&
VANCATA
MILLA

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers are abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied. Some captives bear a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others are inherently powerful, such as the godlike Evinlea, the alien Lizard Lady, or the sorcerer Matua. Most of the prisoners, however, are simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine leads an uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. Two separate groups of prisoners escape: those with Kaine, and those with the infamous space-pirate, Mercer Drake. Kaine's group encounters some fellow fugitives from the Negation: blue-skinned aliens called the Kremmin. But their alliance is short-lived, and they part ways crash-landing near an icy Negation outpost.

After failing to steal a local starship, Kaine realizes that Evinlea's vast abilities of telepathy and teleportation could be the means of their escape from this world. All they need are the coordinates of a nearby habitable world. But only the Kremmin would share such information, and they are currently Negation prisoners awaiting public execution...

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Situation Report- Proconsul Gorg• Negation sub-station 5427:
Today's events confirmed my worst fears about High Castellan Komptin-
WELL, GORG, I CAN'T SAY MUCH FOR THE FOOD OR THE WOMEN HERE, BUT YOU PEOPLE DO PUT ON A FUN EXECUTION
THIS IS NOT ABOUT FUN, HIGH CASTELLAN. THIS IS ABOUT COMMUNION WITH THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE WORLD
THE SAME GEOTHERMAL FORCES THAT PROVIDE OUR LIVELIHOOD ALSO TAKE LIFE, WHEN JUSTICE DEMANDS IT
DO YOUR PEOPLE NOT FIND BEAUTY IN SUCH SYMMETRY?
CALL IT WHAT YOU WANT
IT'S STILL JUST A FANCY WAY TO BOIL SOME POOR GRUNT ALIVE. HOW MUCH LONGER BEFORE THAT THING BLOWS, ANYWAY?
THE INTERVAL ENDS
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW

The little beast actually squealed with delight as the geyser claimed the condemned.
How I hated him for loving it! How I wanted to strap down Komptin himself! But that was not an option.
WHOOM
A Lawbringer had authorized him to commandeer any local Negation resources necessary to complete his mission--
-- the capture of some very special fugitives running loose in my city.
A LAWBRINGER'S orders. I had no choice but to obey.

FOR THE GLORY OF THE IMPERIUM
ROAARR
The condemned prisoners were allies of the fugitives. Komptin bet everything that this lurid spectacle would draw out his quarry.
EX-CELLENT!
YOU'RE CERTAIN THEY'LL COME?
IF I LEARNED ONE THING WHEN I HAD THEM IN CUSTODY, IT'S THAT HUMANS ARE RECKLESSLY SENTIMENTAL
THEY'LL MOUNT A HOPELESS RESCUE ATTEMPT, RATHER THAN WATCH THEIR COMRADES DIE
KOMPTIN, I STILL DON'T GET YOUR TACTICS HERE. ONE OF YOUR ESCAPEES CAN TELEPORT. WHAT'S TO STOP HER FROM SIMPLY PORTING THE PRISONERS OUT OF THE HOLDING CELL?
I'M SURE SHE WOULD, IF SHE KNEW WHERE THE CELL WAS. THEY'LL HAVE TO STRIKE HERE TO FIND THE PRISONERS
AND WHAT THEN? WE'VE ALSO SEEN THEM PROJECT FORCE FIELDS.
WHICH MY MEN ARE READY FOR!
NOW, UNLESS YOU WANT TO QUESTION ANY MORE OF MY ORDERS, HOW ABOUT YOU SHUT UP AND STICK TO THE PLAN?

EVINLEA
I CAN'T HELP YOU IF YOU WON'T LET ME!
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TRIED TO TEACH YOU THE OHRMAZD MANTRA? YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING!
YOU SEE HOW MUCH MAGIC I'VE REGAINED? USE THE MANTRA. I'LL TUNE YOUR MIND TO THE SAME HARMONICS AS--
DOUBTFUL
YOUR MIND IS LIKE A TOY DRUM. MINE IS A SYMPHONY
THEN IT SHOULD WORK EVEN BETTER ON YOU. COME ON. SAY IT WITH ME.
FORGET IT, MATUA. SHE'S TOO LAZY. AS LONG AS JAVI'S TOUCH CAN UNSCRAMBLE HER POWERS, WHY BOTHER WITH HOMEWORK?

KAINE
NO, REALLY, EVINLEA, WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN THE NEGATION WISES UP AND PUTS A BULLET IN JAVIS BRAIN?
THEY ALREADY KNOW TO SEPARATE YOU TWO WHEN THEY ATTACK
HOW LONG TILL THEY TAKE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP?
GEE WHAT A CHEERFUL THOUGHT, MISTER KAINE
I'M JUST SAYING THAT IF WE'RE EVER GONNA FIND A WAY HOME, NONE OF US CAN SLACK OFF. LEAST OF ALL, OUR BIGGEST GUN
IS THAT ALL YOU SEE IN ME, KAINE? A WEAPON?
THEY HAVE EXECUTED THEIR FIRST KREMMIN PRISONER IT'S ON PUBLIC BROADCAST!
THEY'LL KILL ANOTHER EVERY FIFTEEN MINUTES WE HAVE TO STRIKE NOW
TELL ME AGAIN WHY WE SHOULD RISK OUR NECKS TO SAVE THOSE WORTHLESS BLUE FOOLS? THEY NEARLY GOT US KILLED, AFTER ALL
HERE'S A CLUE
YOU CAN TELEPORT US AWAY FROM DANGER, LIKE WHEN WE RAIDED THE SPACEPORT, BUT YOU CAN'T JUST WISH YOURSELF OFF THIS PLANET, RIGHT?
BECAUSE ONE CANNOT TELEPORT BLINDLY IF I ONLY KNEW WHERE A SUITABLE WORLD WAS AROUND HERE
AND WHO DOES KNOW NEGATION SPACE, THAT MIGHT ALSO BE WILLING TO HELP US?

AS IF WE NEEDED A REASON TO DO THE RIGHT THING
ALTWAAL'S EYES
ZA'DA MAKE SURE YOU STICK RIGHT BY MATUA ONCE WE'RE IN
OOY
-gurgles-
ALL RIGHT TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED ME TO DO
THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK

ONE OF YOU COME IT'S TIME
WELL ?
FIRST OFFICER EXOR VOLUNTEERING TO GO NEXT
BELAY THAT I'M GOING NEXT
CAPTAIN FLUXOR NO !
THAT'S ENOUGH, EXOR IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I WAS A DECENT OFFICER
YOU CARRIED ME ALL THAT TIME NOW LET ME PERFORM THIS ONE FINAL DUTY LIKE A TRUE CAPTAIN OF THE CONTINUUM

AND HERE IS THE NEXT CRIMINAL, READY TO PAY THE PRICE FOR DEFYING THE IMPERIUM!
ROOOAARRR
AND I AM STILL NOT COMFORTABLE WITH YOUR REFUSAL TO INFORM CENTRAL-COM OF OUR PROGRESS
THEN WRITE ME UP WHEN WE'RE DONE, BUT RIGHT NOW JUST BE READY FOR --
FWASH
THERE...

...GIVE THE ORDER!

FIRE AT WILL!

KLAK
KCHK
CHAK
SHK
KLIK

CHOOM CHOOM
CHOOM CHOOM
ZZARK
ZAPT

GET HIS SHACKLES - THAT THING'S GONNA BLOW!
KLAK!
PONE
KLAK!
FLUXOR! DO YOU KNOW THE STAR-CHARTS IN THIS AREA?
Huh?
PLANET LOCATIONS?! DISTANCES?!
Y YES ?
THINK OF THEM NOW! VISUALIZE THE NEAREST HABITABLE WORLD!

NOW, MEN! MAKE SURE YOU KILL HER COMPANION ONCE YOU'VE BREACHED HER SHIELD!

YES, SIR!

CHKZWEEEEEE

CHKZWEEEEEE

CHOOM

THERE'S A PLANET IN THE VASSA SYSTEM THE NATIVES USED TO CALL IT—

HUSH I CAN ALREADY SEE IT JUST BE QUIET AND HOLD THAT THOUGHT

WHATEVER THAT WAS, IT CRACKED HER SHIELD!
For a moment, it looked as though Kamptin had indeed brought the right tools for the job...
HOLY--
QUIET! HAVE TO CONCENTRATE
DON'T LET THE OTHER ONE
I'M ON IT
EEEEEEEEEEEE

EEEEEEEEE
EEEEEEE
TYPICAL
EEEEEEEEE
WHOOM

NO NO IT SHOULD'VE BEEN ME
I HAVE IT JAVI! LET'S GO!

GET THAT FIRE UNDER CONTROL!

FORGET THE FIRE! DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

FASH
FASH
...and then suddenly I was watching our prey vanish.

FWOOSH
Along with my career.

FWASH

I DID IT
UNNH

TAVI ?
LOOKS LIKE IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM. DAMN NEAR TOO MUCH FOR ME
WHERE'S THE REST OF THE KREMMIN? YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO

MY CREW--! WE HAVE TO GO BACK AND GET THEM!
YOU SAW THE EXPLOSION THEY'RE ALL DEAD
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE? WE HAVE TO

URK
WHEN WILL YOU FLYSPECKS LEARN THAT I AM NOT AT YOUR BECK AND CALL?
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIVES! WHY CAN'T YOU BE CONTENT WITH THAT?

WHEN DRAKE AND THE OTHERS TOOK THE PRISON TRANSPORT AND LEFT US BEHIND TO DIE, WHO GOT US OUT OF THERE?
ME, THAT'S WHO! I OWE YOU NOTHING MORE.

ATTEND TO JAVI. I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

IF ONLY TO AVOID THE STENCH OF INGRATITUDE

WELL. WHAT HAVE WE HERE ?

And so I submit this document as evidence of High Castellan Komptin's willful disregard of Negation military procedure.
I accept my own responsibility for our failure, but for the good of the Empire, Komptin should face court-martial at the s
TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK
YOU KNOW I CAN'T LET YOU FILE THAT REPORT
YOU ARE FINISHED TELLING ME WHAT TO DO!
SSHFFF

KRAAK
BLOATED IDIOT
GORRNK---?
YOU COULD NEVER UNDERSTAND THE THINGS I HAVE TO DO. THE LENGTHS I HAVE TO GO !
SKLL

GORRRRNK-*
SPLUTCH
SHUNK

IT'S A *SHAME* YOU FORCED ME TO DO THIS
TO THE *SHIP*, MEN. I NEED TO CONTACT THE LAWBRINGER *IMMEDIATELY*.
I'LL HAVE A LOT OF *EXPLAINING* TO DO.

YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, WHO I ASKED EVERYONE BUT *YOU* TO GO LOOK FOR FOOD, RIGHT?
BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN DYING FOR A MOMENT *ALONE* WITH ME EVER SINCE OUR EYES FIRST MET?
DREAM ON, CONVICT. IT'S ABOUT *WESTIN*. I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT IF HE LEFT THE OTHERS BEHIND *ON PURPOSE*
WHAT *GOOD* DOES IT DO TO EVEN *ASK* THAT QUESTION? WE ALL KNEW THAT NOT EVERYONE WOULD MAKE IT OFF THE PRISON-WORLD
I'D RATHER CONCENTRATE ON KEEPING THOSE OF US WHO *DID* ESCAPE ALIVE.
I'D RATHER WORK *WITH* WESTIN THAN PUT HIM ON TRIAL. HE IS, AFTER ALL, THE ONLY ONE OF US WHO CAN *FLY* THIS CRATE.
BUT HOW CAN WE *TRUST* HIM?
BELIEVE ME, TRUST IS *OVER-RATED*.
«URN»
HOW *TRUE*. I TRUSTED *YOU*.

...AND YOU LEFT ME TO DIE!

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

ANDY SMITH
PENCILER

BRAD VANCATA
INKER

JASON LAMBERT
COLORIST

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Negation™
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle
ISSUE #7
on sale
JUNE 19th
KNOCKDOWN DRAG-OUT!

GENERATOR™ CROSSCURRENTS

Well, it's been a long time – about five months – since I've had the opportunity to share with you what's going on around here. I gotta say, I missed you. But with so much great stuff going on around here these days, we need room to tell you about it, so space is at a premium in our books. While at this point none of the following really qualifies as "late-breaking news," I thought I'd touch on some of the high points for those of you who don't, or can't, keep up with the company by other means. So, let's get to it...

On the creative front, we've got lots of new hires to catch up with, so rather than list everyone's past credits, I'll just tell you what their role is going to be here at CrossGen.

Chuck Dixon has taken over scripting SIGIL and CRUX from **Mark Waid** as of issues #21 and #13, respectively. A big "thank you" goes to Mark for his run on those books. Mark continues as an integral part of the RUSE team. Chuck's third title is WAY OF THE RAT, debuting May 15. He joins the experienced art team of penciler **Jeff Johnson**, inker **Tom Ryder**, and colorist **Chris Garcia** to bring us the story of thief Boon Sai Hong and a large cast of colorful supporting characters. These rollicking martial arts adventures are set in a land reminiscent of medieval China, and if you like Jackie Chan movies and talking monkeys, then this book's for you.

Andy Smith has moved from inker of THE FIRST to full-time in-studio relief penciler. By now you will have seen some of his work on our various titles. Beginning with NEGATION #6, he is joined on the relief team by inker **Brad Vancata**. The two of them will have their own title later this year. Filling the gap left by Andy's departure from THE PATH is industry veteran inker **Mark Pennington**. The rest of THE PATH team, as you loyal fans well know, is writer **Ron Marz**, penciler **Bart Sears**, and colorist **Michael Atiyeh**.

And speaking of industry veterans, **George Pérez's** new monthly CrossGen title will join our lineup in the first quarter of 2003. Meanwhile, in a radical departure from his past work, erstwhile MYSTIC penciler **Brandon Peterson** has taken advantage of his myriad existing skills to tackle a new challenge. Brandon will be rendering a new four-issue hard sci-fi miniseries, CHIMERA, using a digital painting technique. The first six pages of issue #1 are done now and they are eye-popping! Co-plotted with Ron Marz, this intergalactic epic on the scale of *Dune* will see print in the fourth quarter of this year.

Writer **Tony Bedard** launches his third title on June 26 with art supplied by penciler **Karl Moline**, inker **John Dell**, and colorist **Nick Bell**. The book is called ROUTE 666 and is a tale of varied manifestations of horror, replete with spirits, ghosts and monsters, all done with a unique CrossGen twist.

Last, but not least, colorist-in-training **Laura Villari** is the latest addition to our associate program. Welcome to the compound, everybody! The Nikes and Kool-Aid are over there to your right; sigil tattoos are to the left.

Next month I'll bring you up to speed on Comics on the Web and Compendia, some of the many cool new ways we've developed to bring comics to people.

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, INC. RECOMMENDED GOOD READ!

The Recommended Read of the Month is brought to you by Karl Moline, Penciler of ROUTE 666

[illegible], published by Aardvark Vanaheim Inc., Written and Illustrated by Dave Sim and Gerhard. [illegible] the comics you read are a little one-dimensional? All flash and no meat? Maybe you should [illegible]. The focus of his career, he has spent the better part of 20 years developing [illegible] which we follow the life of Cerebus, an aardvark of sharp intellect, honest heart, [illegible]. Dave Sim's keen observation and insight shine light on every subject from politics, to [illegible] of the human heart. He uses his work as a metaphor to relate our own world to [illegible] and [illegible], coupled with the [illegible] of Gerhard's backgrounds, [illegible]. It's a work of art.

Recommended Read

MACHINATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Negation Crew,

I must second letter-writer Dean Seimsen. For me, it started with reading 12 months worth of THE FIRST in one sitting before starting to see the big picture of what CrossGen was all about. It was after that that I, too, said, "I'm dropping whatever I'm reading in order to take on all the CrossGen titles." To know I'm not picking up the 15th revamping of a title of the same old superhero baggage that will forever change comics (yet again), is like the sun shining through the clouds after forty days and nights of rain and flood. I enjoy the entire line. Reading a complete set of comics each month, that is all one coherent universe, with great art and writing, and that arrives on time, is a dream come true.

This NEGATION title, though, is something else. Who would have thought that a densely plotted, heavy-duty, sci-fi book driven by real, honest-to-goodness characters would be the book I look forward to the most? This is the best book I've read in a long time – from words to inks to colors to letters. And you know something? NEGATION is funny, too. The arch villain is the most vicious creature under 5' tall I've ever seen and the fact that a certain five-year mission continues in a parallel universe is hilarious…as long as there are no holodecks!

I say, long live the slow burn. I say, go denser and take as long as you need to tell a story with no apologies! For those afraid to jump in, I say, do what I did: get a trade paperback of the two series that pique your interest the most and read the whole series in one shot. You'll see the big picture puzzle that way and you'll want to find all the little pieces you've missed out on from the other series. Seriously guys, thanks for all the hard work. I can't wait for the next issue!

Eddie Presley
Melbourne, FL

And thanks for your great support of our company, Eddie. We won't let you down!

✦

Dear Machinations,

I bought the NEGATION PREQUEL because I wanted to know how it links with the Negation forces in CRUX. While the writing was quite good and the artwork left nothing to be desired, and while there was already a very interesting character (Obregon Kaine), the PREQUEL didn't sit so well with me. So many interesting-looking characters, yet none except Kaine really more than two-dimensional. I really don't like science fiction comics that much – I prefer ones with more of a fantasy setting – and haven't really read any since Dark Horse cancelled its *X-Wing* series. Still, for Paul Pelletier and CrossGen in general, I decided to at least try the first two issues. Now, after having read the second issue, you can count me in. The story is moving at a fast pace, and the characters are becoming more and more vivid. Also, now I really want to know what is behind the Negation and what secrets surround Kaine's past. After the terrible end for most of the prisoners, the cast has thinned out enough and most of the surviving characters seem interesting enough. I have one objection – what is the woman with the baby doing? If all she can do is to be helpless and slow the others, then she shouldn't be around. She should really have some useful abilities, and I don't mean any superpowers or magic. Anything useful would be okay. I don't see how the others would help her if not for Kaine. Anyway, keep up the great work.

Dieter Nagy
Mannheim, Germany

Zaida and the baby are there for a reason, Dieter (you really ought to know us better by now!) and will be featured more prominently in the near future. And, if you want to know more about Kaine's past, and haven't already done so, be sure to pick up

CHRONICLES #7. It's a great story by Tony, Rudy Nebres and Nick Bell that will fill in a lot of those blanks for you.

✦

Dear CrossGen:

First of all, I have to make an admission. I truly believed that CrossGen Comics would fail like the Gorilla line, Valiant, Innovation, etc., so I never picked up a title.

Then my buddy, "Dan the Man," at Flamingo Street Comics, highly recommended I try SOJOURN and NEGATION. I resisted at first and then Dan gave me a bunch of coverless CrossGen comics to check out. I must say that the artwork and coloring were outstanding. I especially love the fact that George Pérez is a member of your team. He is my all-time favorite artist and I have followed his career since *Man-Wolf* and *Sons of the Tiger* over at Marvel. Please get him to do covers on all your titles.

Which brings me to NEGATION. The title of the book itself is weird but the characters are all interesting. Kaine, the focus of the title, seems to be in the mold of the angry black hero. Paul Pelletier's artwork has never looked better -- he draws gorgeous women and menacing-looking aliens. I enjoy the fact that the most dangerous-looking villain is a midget! Now that is something you don't normally see in a comic book. I have read the PREQUEL and issues #1-#3 all in one sitting and the adventures look good so far. But please don't create a *Lost In Space* type of series, because those get boring fast because there's no end in sight. Maybe I'll try some other titles in the future, but right now I am really enjoying NEGATION and SOJOURN. Keep the CrossGen flag flying!

Nelson Jimenez
Stamford, CT

I guess we both owe Dan, huh, Nelson? Pass along my thanks for enticing a new fan into our world, and welcome!

✦

To the Negation Team,

I just wanted to write and say how much I've enjoyed the PREQUEL and first three regular issues of NEGATION. I could go on and on about how great the art and story are but you've got plenty of fans to do that. What really prompted me to write was how surprised I was to see Kid Eternity's old sidekick, Mr. Keeper, make an appearance, and doing his best Captain Kirk impersonation to boot! I was wondering how Obregon and company were going to make it out alive, but I never saw that coming. Looking forward to more NEGATION.

Mark A. Mercer
Merc2099@yahoo.com

P.S. I sure was sorry to see Ben Grimm not make it off the prison planet in issue #2.

Glad you like the book, Mark. One thing you can be sure of, there are surprises around every corner with Tony and Paul at the helm. Thanks for your letter, but...Ben who?

✦

Howdy, Gina!

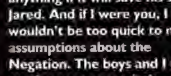
Doggone, this is one nail-biter of a book! Tony is doing a wonderful job of slowly familiarizing us with the broad cast of players by giving us small insights into their personalities with each issue. My favorite example of this was the incredibly brave (or foolish) stunt that Drake pulls by blasting himself out of the airlock into space, smashing through the cockpit of the trailing Negation ship, tossing the pilot into space, then ramming the hijacked ship into its partner craft to save his group! Just to look at the guy, you wouldn't think he had it in him. Maybe he's experienced enough with his sigil-borne powers to know that he could pull something like that off, but I'd like to think he was heroically going out on a limb in the face of desperation.

Kaine's team, meanwhile, has come to the ultimate dead end: the end of the universe! Their only option is to go back the way they came. Komptin, too, bravely faces a dead end of sorts. Sentenced to execution, he risks death at the hands of Lawbringer Qztr for the chance to hunt those that escaped him. Or is he merely trying to save his own skin? He didn't seem to show the slightest hint of cowardice when facing General Kryzorr, so I'm thinking he's going to make quite a devious adversary despite his...stature.

Paul, Dave and James continue to astound with their fine artwork, and James is doing a bang-up job coloring those cosmic vistas! One thing that's thrown me for a loop with this title is that it isn't as dark as I imagined it would be. Don't get me wrong, it is dark, but the occasional dashes of humor that Tony tosses into the mix keep the tone varied. I like this. He carries it off with just the right balance. The only thing I can think of that has disappointed me about this book is the fact that under that grisly gear, the Negation soldiers are just human! I was under the impression that there was going to be nothing human whatsoever about the Negation, that it would be totally alien. Well, we still don't know the whole story behind it, and it's a minor gripe at best.

Jared Moraitis
Newton, NC

I think you're going to find that Komptin is capable of just about anything if it will save his skin, Jared. And if I were you, I wouldn't be too quick to make assumptions about the Negation. The boys and I thank you for your appreciation of their work.



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Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers are abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied. Some captives bear a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others are inherently powerful, such as the godlike Evinlea, the alien Lizard Lady, or the sorcerer Matua. Most of the prisoners, however, are simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine leads an uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. Two separate groups of prisoners escape: those with Kaine, and those with the infamous space-pirate, Mercer Drake. Both groups wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home. After several harrowing weeks, both groups end up on the same planet.

Now, Kaine's comrades, who blame the other group for leaving them to die on the prison world, finally have their chance to give Drake a little payback...

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"YOU MIGHT THINK THAT IT'S A *HARD* THING TO DO, CONQUERING A *UNIVERSE*.
"IT'S NOT.
"I'LL ALLOW THAT IT IS SLOW GOING AT *FIRST*, BUT ONCE YOU CAPTURE A GALAXY, IT ALL JUST *SNOWBALLS* FROM THERE.
"ALL IT TAKES IS *POWER* AND *PATIENCE* -- TWO THINGS I HAVE NO END OF."

NO...I'D SAY THE *HARDEST* THING TO DO IN ALL MY REALM IS WHAT *YOU*, MY FRIEND, HAVE MANAGED TO ACCOMPLISH:
YOU *SURPRISED* ME.

YOUR ARRIVAL WAS THE FIRST GENUINELY *UNEXPECTED* THING TO HAPPEN AROUND HERE IN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS.
THANK YOU.
BUT YOUR REFUSAL TO *SPEAK* HAS TAKEN ALL THE JOY OUT OF IT. LOOK AT WHAT I'VE BEEN FORCED TO PUT YOU THROUGH. DO YOU THINK I *LIKE* DOING THIS?
IT COULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLER, BUT SOMEHOW YOU CAN BAR ME FROM YOUR MIND. THAT IN ITSELF IS MOST TANTALIZING.
BUT YOUR RESISTANCE IS SO UNNECESSARY. ALL I WANT IS SOME INSIGHT ON THE PLACE YOU CAME FROM.
THE BETTER *INFORMED* I AM, THE LESS *DAMAGE* I'LL DO WHEN I GO THERE MYSELF.
YOU'VE SEEN THE *PEACE* AND *HARMONY* I HAVE IMPOSED UPON THIS COSMOS.
SURELY, YOU COULD NOT OBJECT TO MY DOING THE SAME FOR *YOUR* UNIVERSE...

"...FOR I KNOW WELL THAT IT IS A PLACE OF *SORROW* AND *STRIFE*."
EVINEA *WAIT*
NO, DRAKE NO *EXCUSES*, NO *APPEALS*
YOU *SEALED* YOUR FATE WHEN YOU LEFT ME TO *DIE* IN THAT PRISON
Y KNOW *GUNK* I COULD PROBABLY *TALK* SOME SENSE INTO YOU
BUT IT WON'T *FEEL* AS GOOD

...AS BREAKING YOUR FACE!

KAINE?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! WE THOUGHT ALL OF YOU...
YOU THOUGHT YOU'D DOUBLE CROSS US ON THE ESCAPE!
DRAKE! STOP!
THAT WASN'T INTENTIONAL! I'LL EXPLAIN... JUST CALL OFF YOUR PET GODDESS!
SHOULD I GET JAVI TO HELP EVINLEA?
NEGATIVE, LIZARD LADY. SHE'S DOING FINE FOR NOW.

VINCE! STOP IT!
SEVEN SPIRITS! IS THAT SHASSA ?
WE THOUGHT YOU PEOPLE WERE DEAD! HOW DID WE END UP ON THE SAME PLANET?
WE THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL DEAD TOO, AFTER WE LEFT THE PRISON-WORLD. WE BYPASSED AN ICE-PLANET WITH A NEGATION BASE ON IT--
SMART MOVE. WE ALMOST GOT KILLED THERE
RIGHT WELL, THIS WAS THE NEXT-CLOSEST PLANET WITH AN ATMOSPHERE
IT SEEMED SAFE, SINCE IT'S ABANDONED
HOW MANY OF YOU MADE IT OFF THE PRISON-WORLD, ANYWAY?
AND COULD YOU PLEASE TELL HER TO STOP?
DRAKE'S TOUGH, BUT HE'S STILL RECOVERING FROM OUR LAST NEGATION RUN IN

TOO BAD
WE COUNTED ON YOU TO SECURE THAT PRISON TRANSPORT FOR ALL OF US
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT FELT LIKE, WATCHING YOU FLY AWAY WHILE THE WHOLE PLANET WENT UP IN FLAMES AROUND US??
MONCHITO, MONCHITO!
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE? WE THOUGHT WE HEARD EXPLOSIONS
SHASSA! WHAT, WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
IT'S EASY TO KICK A MAN WHEN HE'S DOWN. HOW ABOUT A REAL CHALLENGE?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. EVEN HOBBLED BY THIS CURSED COSMOS, I AM STILL A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN YOU
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THEY'RE NOT DOING: LISTENING
BUT I KNOW HOW TO GET SOMEONE'S ATTENTION
YOU! GET BACK HERE, OR I'LL SHOOT!

YOU DON'T KNOW A *THING* ABOUT ME
I TAKE IT SHE'S BEEN *PRACTICING* ?
WE *ALL* HAVE. WE'VE FOUND THE MORE WE USE OUR *SIGILS* IN NEGATION SPACE, THE BETTER THEY WORK
YOU JUST CAN'T BITE OFF TOO MUCH AT FIRST

AND WHAT EXACTLY DOES SHASSA'S SIGIL LET HER DO?
I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WORKS
-- JUST DON'T EVER GET ON HER BAD SIDE

SIR, WE'RE IN POSITION TO TRANSMIT
OKAY
OKAY
HH
OPEN A CHANNEL TO LAWBRINGER OZTR. AUDIO ONLY AND NOBODY ELSE SAY ANYTHING. UNDERSTOOD?
KOMPTIN?
YES, YOUR HONOR. I'M READY TO REPORT ON OUR MISSION TO SENKHEM. IF YOU'RE--
I JUST RECEIVED WORD THAT OUR OUTPOST THERE WAS DESTROYED.
NO? THEN I'M TOO LATE
I, ah, I SHOULD HAVE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED THAT THE C.O. OF THAT INSTALLATION, PROCONSUL GORG, SEEMED MENTALLY UNFIT FOR SERVICE
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO RAT OUT A FELLOW OFFICER. I TRIED WORKING WITH HIM. WE ALMOST HAD THE FUGITIVES TRAPPED AT THE EXECUTION ARENA BUT GORG BLEW IT
AFTERWARDS HE SEEMED DESPONDENT
I TOLD HIM I'D GO EASY ON HIM IN THE OFFICIAL REPORT. BUT HE MUST'VE DECIDED TO SABOTAGE THE REACTOR TOWER, RATHER THAN FACE HIS OWN MISTAKES
KOMPTIN...

...I NEVER MENTIONED *HOW* THE OUTPOST WAS DESTROYED.
...
I DID IT, SIR. MY MEN HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. I *ALONE* SHOULD PAY THE PRICE FOR THIS FAILURE.
WHAT FAILURE? I TASKED YOU WITH THE RE-CAPTURE OF PRISONER EVINLEA. I NEVER ACTUALLY EXPECTED YOU TO *ACCOMPLISH* IT.
I REQUIRED A DISPLAY OF HER *ABILITIES*...WHICH YOU DELIVERED. ANY LIVES LOST IN THE PROCESS ARE NO CONCERN OF MINE.
YOU *KNOW* I DESTROYED THE OUTPOST AND YOU STILL DON'T *CARE*?
YOU'RE A *VICIOUS* LITTLE CUR, KOMPTIN. I *RESPECT* VICIOUS.
JUST DON'T GET IN THE HABIT OF *LYING* TO ME.

DO YOU DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE ESCAPEES TELEPORTED TO?
YES, BUT THAT IS NO LONGER YOUR CONCERN. I SHALL ATTEND TO THEM MYSELF.
ASSUME A STANDARD PATROL OF THIS SECTOR. I'LL AWAIT YOUR RETURN.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
WE'RE ALIVE!
THAT WAS BRAVE, TAKING THE BLAME LIKE YOU DID.
YOU MUST BE THE LUCKIEST--
YOU IDIOTS!
DON'T YOU SEE?! I CAN'T LET HIM GO KILL KAINE AND THE OTHERS.
KAINE'S LIFE IS MINE ALONE TO TAKE!
MINE AND NO ONE ELSE'S!

ALL I WAS TRYING TO DO WAS START THE ENGINES! I DIDN'T MEAN TO *LEAVE* YOU GUYS, BUT THE WHOLE LAUNCH SEQUENCE WAS *AUTOMATED!*
YEAH, WE HAD OUR *OWN* AUTO-LAUNCH DISASTER ON THE LAST PLANET WE -- oh, NO
EVINLEA! STOP IT BEFORE YOU GET *HURT!*
YOU, um, LOOK *DIFFERENT*, DON'T YOU...?
?
KRM

HOW CAN THIS BE?!
UNLESS
UNLESS THAT SIGIL ON YOUR ARM TELLS YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO BEFORE I EVEN THINK IT!
KEEP GUESSING
JAVI! ATTEND ME!
COME UNFETTER MY TRUE POWER
IF I CANNOT LAY A HAND ON HER, THEN I SHALL BLAST HER FROM AFAR!
Uh
CAN'T WE JUST TALK IT OUT? YOU SHOULD HEAR WHAT THEY'RE SAYING OVER HERE I THINK THIS COULD ALL BE A TERRIBLE MIS
JAVI! NOW!
Oh, NO. DON'T LOOK AT ME. SOME THINGS YOU GOTTA DECIDE FOR YOURSELF

EK!
I'M SORRY IF THERE'S A CHANCE THESE PEOPLE DIDN'T CROSS US. I'D RATHER HAVE THEM AS ALLIES
YOU UNGRATEFUL WORM! WHEN I GET THROUGH HERE, I'LL
FINE. I SHALL DO IT WITHOUT YOUR TOUCH!
IF THAT SNAKE-HAIRED CINDERWENCH CAN GET HER ABILITIES UNDER CONTROL, THEN BY ALTWAAL
SO CAN I!
FWOOSH
MAINE, PLEASE! SHE'LL KILL HER!
NILL SHASSA? SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK SO.

YOU SAID *PRACTICE* HAS HELPED YOU GUYS UNSCRAMBLE YOUR POWERS.
YEAH, BUT *SLOWLY*. NONE OF US IS A HUNDRED PERCENT YET.
"WELL, EVINLEA HASN'T PRACTICED *AT ALL*, NOT THAT IT SHOWS WHEN ALL SHE'S USING IS HER *STRENGTH*--
--BUT NOW THAT SHE'S SWITCHED TO HER *DEATH-RAY* TRICK.
EEEYAHH!

HAD ENOUGH?
ah ah
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A YES
JAVI ?
SOON AS I'M DONE WITH DRAKE

WHY DIDN'T YOU *WARN* HER? YOU KNEW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT WOULD HAPPEN -- WE'VE *BOTH* SEEN IT BEFORE!
DO YOU *HATE* EVINLEA SO MUCH...?
NO. I JUST NEED HER TO *GROW UP*
TRY TO UNDERSTAND. IF SHE DOESN'T LEARN *HUMILITY*, WE'RE *ALL* DEAD
ANYHOW, SHE'LL BE FINE. JAVI'S TOUCH DOESN'T JUST UNSCRAMBLE POWERS, IT CAN HEAL ALMOST ANYTHING EXCEPT MAYBE A SENSE OF *BETRAYAL*
I WAS *WONDERING* HOW YOU'D FINALLY DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THOSE TWO
SO, DO WE KEEP *FIGHTING*, OR ARE YOU READY TO *LISTEN?*
WESTIN ALREADY EXPLAINED. LET'S GET A HEAD-COUNT AND FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE

ALL RIGHT, I THINK OUR SHIP CAN STILL ACCOMMODATE EVERY ONE OF US.
EVINLEA !--
SHUT UP
IN SPITE OF WHAT JUST HAPPENED, I CAN'T SAY HOW GLAD I AM THAT THERE WERE MORE SURVIVORS FROM OUR JAILBREAK
I'M NOT SURE WHO KNEW WHOM BACK IN THE PRISON, SO IF EVERYBODY WOULDN'T MIND INTRODUCING THEMSELVES..?
MERCER DRAKE
IRESS, OF HOUSE DEXTER
AGLAREB OF GRINBOR
I'M CALYX OF TORBEL AND THIS IS FOONIE
MOONCHILD
QUOLZAG
WU PING LAM
ERE, WOT'S THIS BLEEDIN BIGE ?
THUSTRA
BLIMEY!
SKLOTCH

NOT "BLIMEY".
QZTR.
LAWBRINGER QZTR.

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

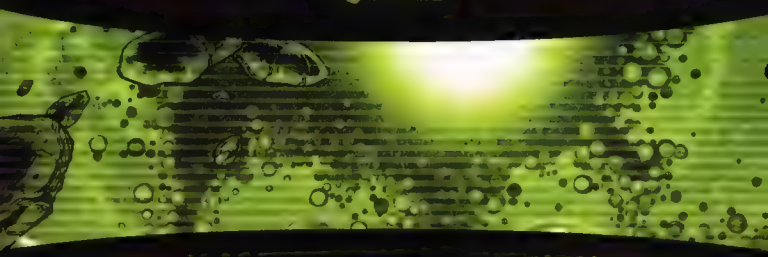
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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ISSUE #8
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MACHINATIONS

Dear Machinations,

NEGATION could have been a disaster. The creative team had to merge so many different aspects of the entire CrossGen Universe, plus new characters, that under a lesser team the results might have been so confusing even people like myself who read every CrossGen book might have been in over their heads. Luckily, that didn't happen and NEGATION is a wonderful read month after month, with well-written-and-drawn heroes and villains that seem oddly familiar, but are their own characters.

Opening issue #5 in a prayer service was an interesting move, gently reminding the reader of just how big a role Charon actually has in the book, and the disgusting multiple eyed dog-things were a cool creation (kudos to James Rochelle for the visible breath coming from them). Lizard Lady's reappearance was well done; I enjoyed how she changed both in obvious and small ways. I can't wait for her to tell the group she eats people. Evinlea's characterization was dead-on as always. The aquatic ship was a nice touch, and having such an offbeat construction suddenly appear in the comic was an unexpected surprise. The climax of the book was amazing; I can't wait to see how you elaborate on the group's current plight.

Paul Pelletier, Dave Meikis and James Rochelle deserve much praise for being able to aptly draw and color so many different characters so well. Bravo!

Keep up the amazing work!
Thanks,
Robert Taylor
smsuso@core.com

I'm glad you mentioned the prayer service, Robert. I thought it was a great touch, and another example of the cool detail that Tony sneaks into the book all the time. As you say, Charon hasn't been playing a large part in the book to this point, but as you may surmise from the last couple of issues, that is about to change. I don't know if Lizard Lady is going to be sharing the exact nature of her intelligence-gathering methods with the others any time soon, but I have the feeling that when she does, Tony will use it to good effect. If nothing else, you should have caught on by now that where Mr. Bedard is concerned, you have to be careful what you wish for!

Dear NEGATION crew,

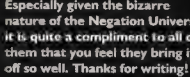
To be honest, I was a little bit disappointed by the PREQUEL, but since then every issue has been better than the previous one. With issue #5 you've finally caught me for real. As long as the story and artwork on this book remains on this great level, I'll be a loyal reader for a long time.

Of course I've known Paul Pelletier's pencils since his work on *Green Lantern*, and thought of him as quite a good penciler, but now — the same as it has been with so many others in your studio – working for CrossGen has changed his art into something more. I think what makes so many of your books so great is, indeed, the way the words, the pencils, the inks and the coloring form a perfect, seamless piece of art. As the reader we experience the fact that everybody working on a book is really doing the best he is capable of.

Anyway, regarding issue #5, it really pulled me into Negation Space; all the creatures and backgrounds were so vivid and the behavior of the characters was so natural, it was simply an awesome read.

Thanks,
Dieter Nagy
Mannheim, Germany

I think you've really touched on an important point in your letter, Dieter, when you mention how all of the artists blend their skills so well. Paul, Dave, and James all bring their own unique contributions to each page to illustrate Tony's dynamic scripts and the whole surely is greater than the sum of its parts. Especially given the bizarre nature of the Negation Universe, it is quite a compliment to all of them that you feel they bring it off so well. Thanks for writing!



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GENERATOR CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

As I promised last month, here's a little information on CrossGen's latest innovations, Comics on the Web and Compendia. COW made its debut in February at MegaCon and has really taken off. For an initial subscription price of $1 per month (you can even use PayPal or eCheck.net for that!), users have access to more than 50 issues of our comics, with that number to grow to over 160 issues by the end of 2002. That's 4,400 pages, chums, and it's only the beginning! Renowned Flash programmer Gabo Mendoza has designed COW to read just like a paper version and to load...well...in a flash, and he's already hard at work on the next blow-your-doors-off version. I'll tell you more as time goes on. By now you must have seen our Compendia Series, FORGE and EDGE, gracing the shelves of your comic shops. Suffice it for me to say that the Compendia are a cost-effective, high quality way to sample all of our comics. If you've been reluctant to pick up some of our books because you jumped aboard the CrossGen bandwagon a little late, here's your opportunity to catch up!

There's loads of other news that I need to catch you up on, but I just got back from Wizard World East, so it'll have to wait until next month. It is my column...

The con was held at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, May 10-12, an easy walk to historical sites such as Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell. For ease of accessibility and convenience, this is one of the best cons of any kind I've ever attended. Traffic at the CrossGen booth was steady and very good throughout the three days and I had a great time meeting and talking with fans and other comics professionals. I don't go to many conventions these days, but this is one I'd certainly love to return to. I had a great time and was forcefully reminded about what a fantastic bunch of people I work with and how terrific our fans are.

One of the best parts of any convention for me is the chance to look at the huge variety of small press and self-published stuff that's out there. Some of it is better than others, obviously, but I have a tremendous amount of admiration for anyone who has the dedication to get their dream on paper and the guts to put it out in front of a bunch of strangers and solicit their feedback. Regardless of the results, my hat goes off to, and my heart is with, all of them. To any of you out there who might be reading this, I say, bless you all and more power to you. Keep the faith and keep working, because that's the first step to any success you might have. And, if you make it, don't forget what it was like while you were on your path; try to give the next fellow or gal a hand along the way. You'll get back so much more than you give. So, anyway... Let me take this opportunity to introduce you to two young men who I think have a very bright future in this business, Myatt Murphy and Scott Dalrymple of Second 2 Some Studios. Myatt and Scott are the creative team – writer and artist, respectively – behind a great new series called *fade from blue*. In issue #1 we meet four half-sisters who have formed a family together after the deaths of their mothers and disappearance of their father: Marit, the cop; Christa, the magazine writer; Iya, the beauty; and Elisa, the acting student and singer. In 24 well-illustrated and beautifully written pages Myatt and Scott set the stage for a complex story of mystery and deception woven about these intriguing characters and, using nuance of phrase and feature, hint at depths within them and secrets waiting to be revealed. As you might be able to tell, I was hooked, and demanded ...err...requested the next issue immediately. Myatt was nice enough to send me the roughs and they only confirmed my opinion. GO OUT AND BUY THIS BOOK, OKAY! See ya next month!

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, INC. RECOMMENDED GOOD READ!

[illegible] Martin, Production Assistant at CrossGen.

[illegible] is written by James Robinson with art by Paul Smith.

[illegible] of this wonderful all-ages comic. The title character [illegible] follow in the footsteps of her father, Lucas Falconer, [illegible] her father forbids her from claiming her birthright, Chance sets [illegible] must face goblins, trolls, ghosts, zombies and all manner [illegible] dragon — to protect her. This wonderful coming-of-[illegible] and thrill young readers, while the beautiful art [illegible]

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Negation
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

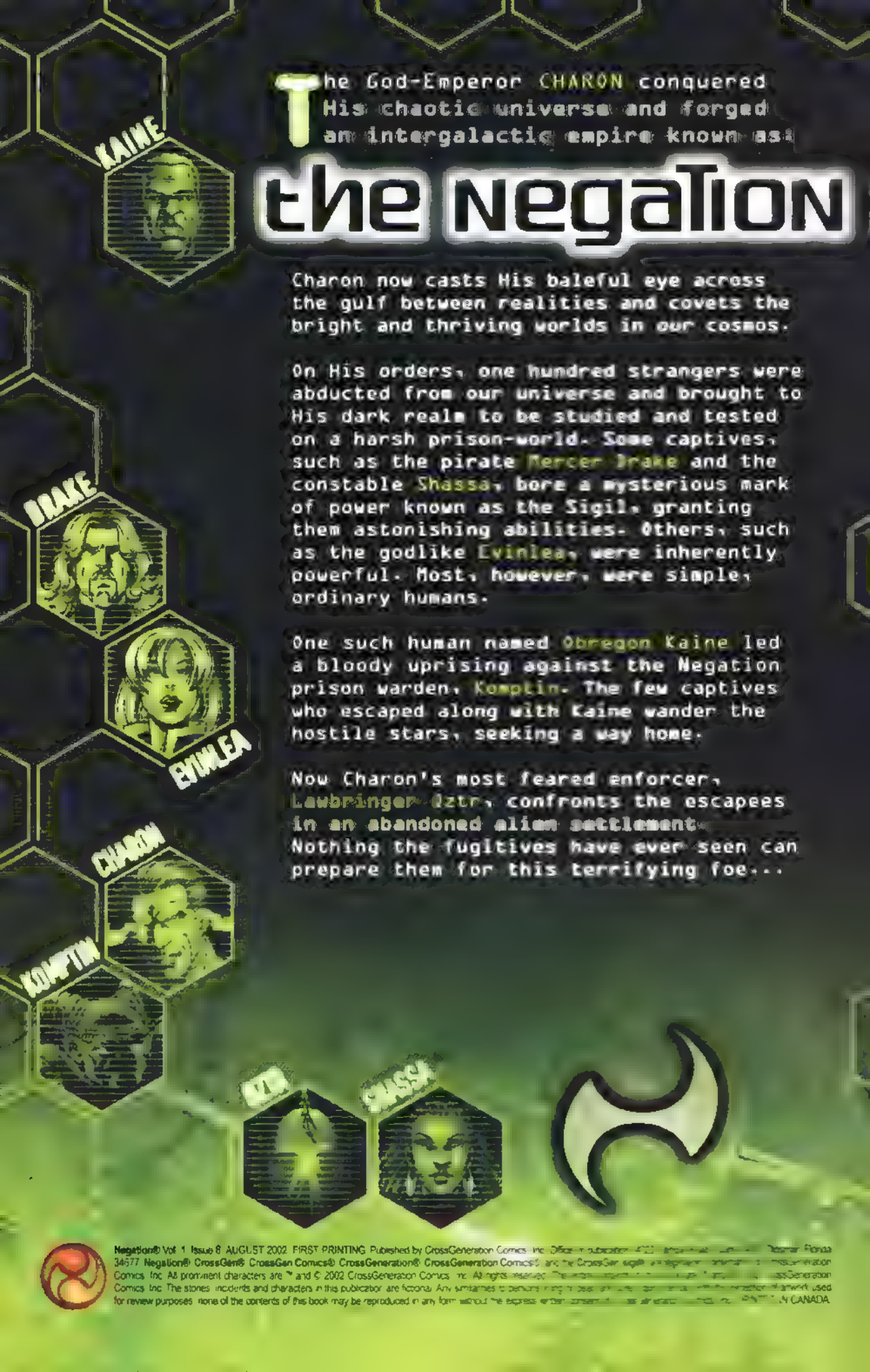
the NEGATION

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the pirate Mercer Drake and the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Now Charon's most feared enforcer, Lawbringer Qztr, confronts the escapees in an abandoned alien settlement. Nothing the fugitives have ever seen can prepare them for this terrifying foe...



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YOU'VE BEEN TORTURED FOR WEEKS...
...BY FIVE OF THE FINEST PAIN TECHNICIANS I'VE EVER EMPLOYED.
...AND STILL YOU WON'T REVEAL EVEN THE SIMPLEST FACTS ABOUT... YOURSELF.
THIS IS STARTING TO HURT MY FEELINGS.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE JUST AS OBSTINATE--THOUGH NOT *NEARLY* AS ENTERTAINING--AS THE *OTHERS* I COLLECTED FROM YOUR UNIVERSE.
YES. THAT GOT YOUR ATTENTION.
IT'S TRUE. THERE *ARE* OTHERS HERE IN NEGATION SPACE FROM ACROSS THE BARRIER. OF COURSE, NONE OF THEM CAME, OF THEIR OWN ACCORD, AS YOU DID.
WHY ON EARTH *DID* YOU COME, ANYWAY?
EARTH? WHAT DO *YOU* KNOW OF EARTH?
THAT *IS* THE NAME OF THE PLANET FROM WHICH YOU CAME. IS IT NOT?

SO WE'RE BACK TO *SILENCE*, ARE WE?
ALLOW ME TO CARRY ON THE CONVERSATION FOR *BOTH* OF US. YOU SEE, YOU'VE BECOME QUITE DEAR TO ME...
...AND THE MORE YOU *UNDERSTAND* MY TRUE AIMS, THE MORE LIKELY YOU'LL *JOIN* MY CAUSE.
THE *OTHERS* I MENTIONED WERE BROUGHT HERE SOON AFTER I LOCATED YOUR UNIVERSE...
"THEY WERE RANDOMLY *ABDUCTED* FROM A HUNDRED WORLDS...
"...AND PUT IN A *FACILITY* ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF MY REALM, WHERE WE TESTED THEIR STRENGTHS AND VULNERABILITIES TO BETTER INFORM OUR *INVASION PLANS*.
"THE RESULTS WERE A *REVELATION*: SOME PRISONERS POSSESSED *REMARKABLE* POWER, NOT UNLIKE YOUR OWN.
"BUT SOMEHOW, CROSSING THE BARRIER HAD *SCRAMBLED* THOSE ABILITIES.
POWERS THAT WORKED PERFECTLY WELL ON THEIR HOMEWORLDS LITERALLY *BACKFIRED* HERE IN NEGATION SPACE.
"WHILE CONSIDERING THIS, I OBSERVED THAT THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF THE EXPERIMENT HAD FIXATED UPON ONE RATHER ORDINARY HUMAN NAMED *OBREGON KAINE*.
"HIGH CASTELLAN *KOMPTIN* SAW SOMETHING IN SUBJECT KAINE THAT I HAD OVERLOOKED AT FIRST..."

"SUCH SPIRIT, CUNNING AND LEADERSHIP IN ONE SO...OR DINARY PROVED QUITE FASCINATING.
"WHEN KOMPTIN RASHLY TRIED TO DESTROY THIS MOST INTRIGUING SPECIMEN, I INTERCEDED.
"MY MANIFESTATION IS ENOUGH TO FRIGHTEN SOME FOR A *LIFETIME*, BUT NOT KAINE. SOON AFTER, HE ORCHESTRATED A MASS ESCAPE.
"I ALLOWED IT TO HAPPEN. LETTING THEM *SUCCEED* WAS PROVING FAR MORE INSTRUCTIONAL THAN KEEPING THEM CAGED.
"KAINE'S BAND OF ESCAPEES SOON JOINED THE FUGITIVE CREW OF A LOCAL VESSEL.
"AS FOR KOMPTIN, HE'S BEEN TRYING TO RECAPTURE THEM EVER SINCE.
"HIS BLIND HATRED OF KAINE HAS DRIVEN HIM TO SURPRISING EXTREMES.
"FOR EXAMPLE, HE ENTICED ONE OF MY LAWBRINGERS, TO AID HIM, OFFERING HIM THE DEMOLITIONESS EVINLEA AS HIS PRIZE."
BUT EVEN MY FAITHFUL LAWBRINGER QZTR IS MISSING THE *POINT* IF HE THINKS EVINLEA IS THE MOST DANGEROUS OF OUR RUNAWAYS.
IT'S *KAINE* HE SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON...

THE ONE NAMED EVINLEA WILL STEP FORWARD AND DEPART WITH ME.
THE REST OF YOU WILL REMAIN HERE AND...
...AND...
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT?
Oh.

THERE.

IS THAT LESS *DISTRACTING?*

SHUK

AT LAST! A FOE I CAN FIGHT *FACE TO FACE!*

NO! YOU DON'T UNDER

WHUNG-

FOR THE GLORY OF GRINBOR!

-HUKK

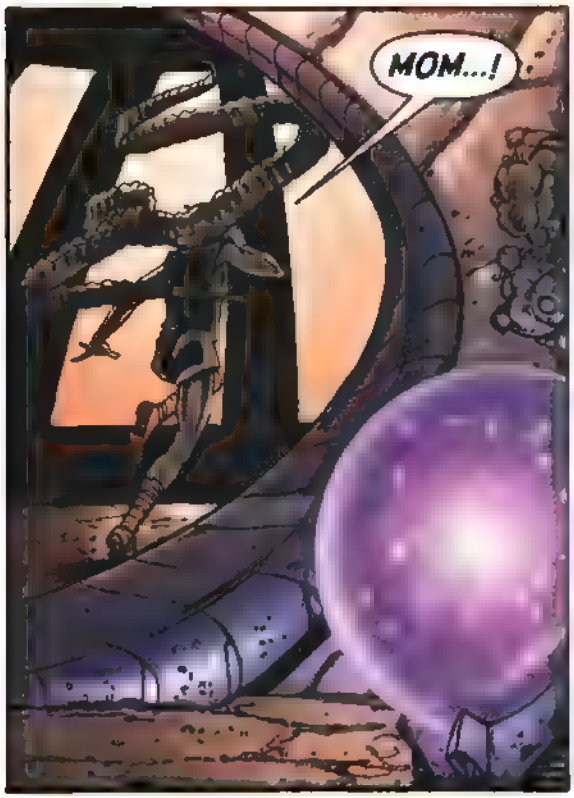
→NNF← FIGHT ME, FOUL CREATURE OF THE PIT! DO YOUR WORST!
...mm...
ah
GUH--!
BLUURRGH-*!

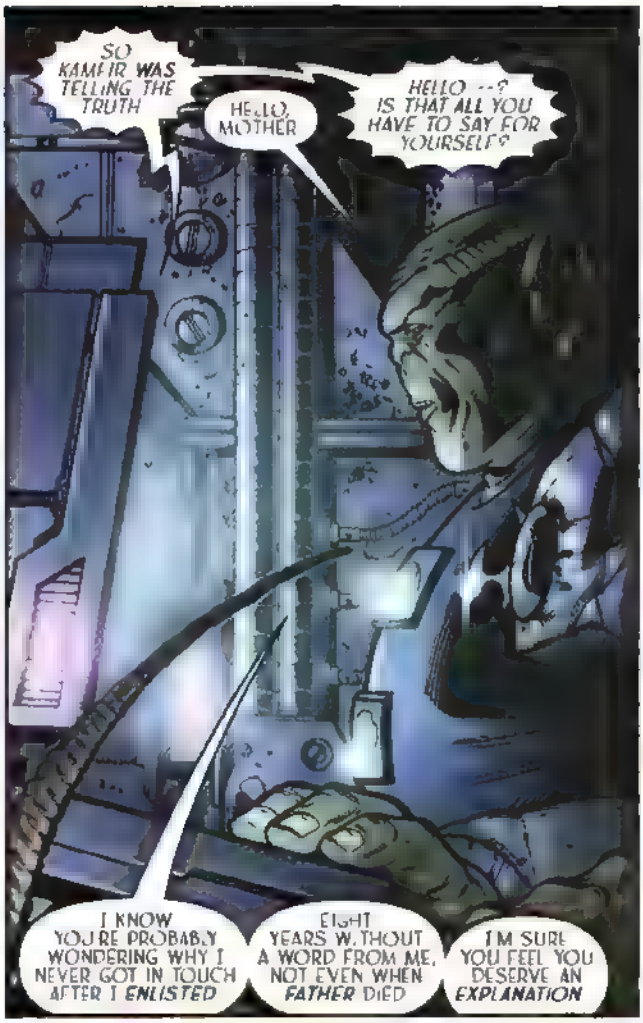
FLUXOR! YOU'RE FROM THIS FREAKIN UNIVERSE WHAT THE HELL ARE WE UP AGAINST?
=BBLURG=HH=
MONCHITO!
=HUHH= THAT =HUHH=
THAT IS A LAWBRINGER!
CHARON'S MOST FEARED ENFORCERS
THEY WIPED OUT ALL LIFE ON SEVEN WORLDS IN THE KREMMIN CONTINUUM!
THAT ONE RIGHT THERE DESTROYED MY HOMEWORLD!
HEAVENS BELOW, KAINE, WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!

KHYALHTUA'S CLAWS. THIS IS USELESS!
ZZARK
SWHHZZZZ
THANKS, MATUA. ALMOST FINISHED
WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS? CAN YOU TWO HANDLE IT?
MAYBE. BUT... WHY ISN'T IT ATTACKING?
BECAUSE, PRISONER JAVI. I AM WAITING FOR YOU TO FULLY RESTORE PRISONER EVINLEA.
I CAME LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGE, NOT MERELY TO SQUASH YOU ALL LIKE BUGS.
BOHICA

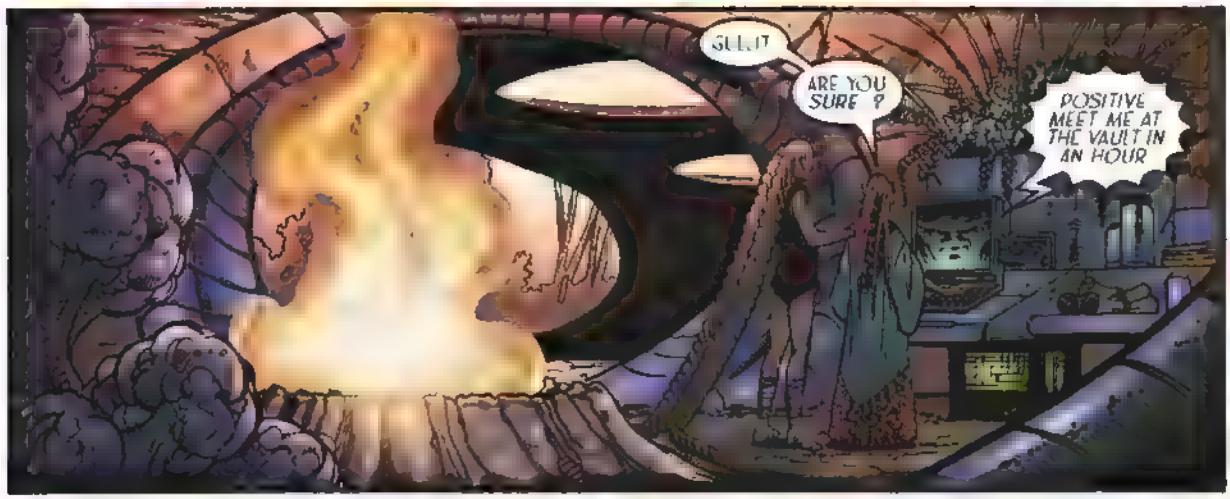
SIR, WE'VE ESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE CIVIL COMM SYSTEM ON KALIMA BUT
BUT WHAT?
WELL, SIR, WE'RE ALL WONDERING WHY WE'RE HERE. LAWBRINGER OZTR ORDERED US TO MAINTAIN A PATROL TWO SECTORS AWAY
AS SOON AS OZTR GETS TIRED OF PLAYING WITH THE FUGITIVES HE'LL CALL US IN TO COLLECT WHOEVER'S LEFT ALIVE. WHEN HE DOES, IF PRISONER KAINE IS STILL BREATHING WELL
LET'S JUST SAY I'LL HAVE A SURPRISE WAITING FOR HIM
NOW I NEED TO MAKE A PRIVATE CALL. DO NOT, FOR ANY REASON, INTERRUPT ME. UNDERSTOOD?
*HH+
OH FOR CHARON'S SAKE
PEEP PEEP PEEP
CALL BACK. I'M BUSY!
THAT'S A HELL OF A WAY TO ANSWER THE PHONE, KAMFIR
PUT MOTHER ON

KOMPTIN? IS THAT YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU CALLING FOR?
I TOLD YOU I WANT TO SPEAK WITH MOTHER
FORGET IT. I AM THIS CLOSE TO BEATING MY TOP SCORE. I'M NOT MOVING FOR ANYTHING
HAVE SOME RESPECT AND LOOK AT ME WHEN YOU SPEAK!
GO GET RESPECT FROM THE NEGATION! THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY NOW!
KAMFIR
YOU'RE DEAD TO US, KOMPTIN! STAY THAT WAY!
WHOA! DID YOU SEE THAT?! TRIPLE BONUS!
ALL RIGHT, LITTLE BROTHER. YOU'VE GROWN UP ENOUGH NOW TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR DECISIONS
SO UNDERSTAND THIS: IF YOU DON'T PUT MOTHER ON THE PHONE RIGHT NOW
I SWEAR BY HOLY CHARON THAT I WILL COME DOWN THERE IN PERSON
AND FEED YOU YOUR OWN EYEBALLS

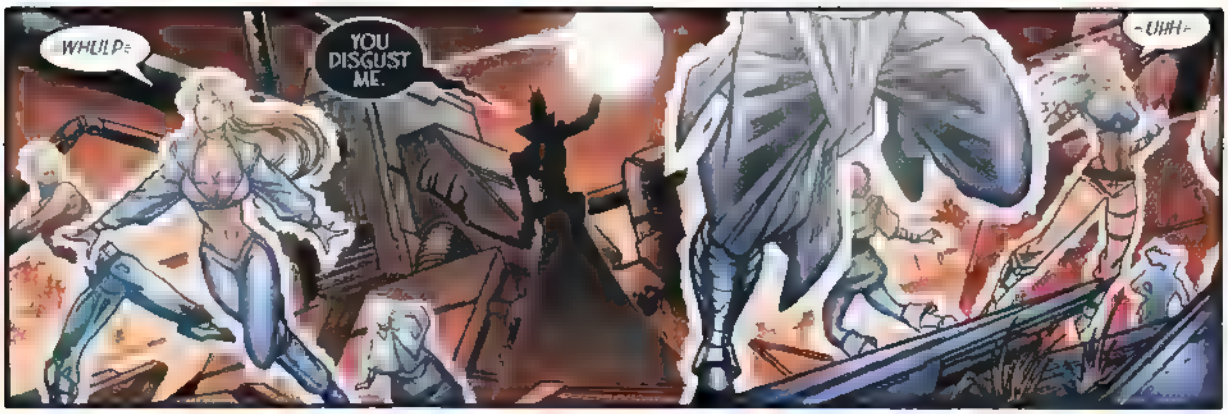

MOM...!


SO KAMEIR WAS TELLING THE TRUTH
HELLO, MOTHER
HELLO --? IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE TO SAY FOR YOURSELF?
I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY WONDERING WHY I NEVER GOT IN TOUCH AFTER I ENLISTED
EIGHT YEARS WITHOUT A WORD FROM ME, NOT EVEN WHEN FATHER DIED
I'M SURE YOU FEEL YOU DESERVE AN EXPLANATION

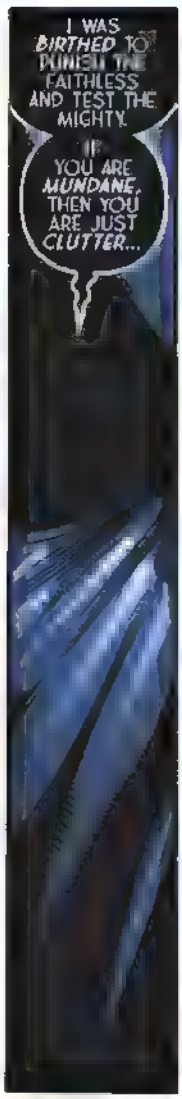
BUT I REALLY COULDN'T CARE LESS
THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?
I'M HERE TO PICK UP GULLIT

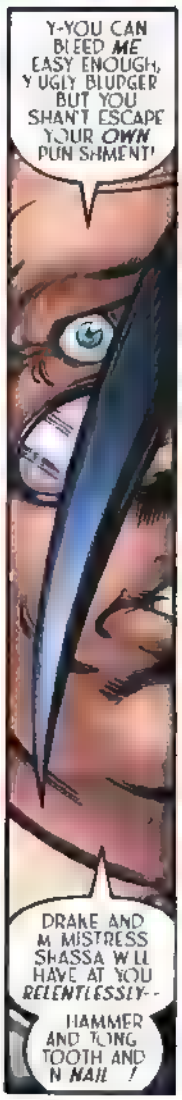

GULLIT
ARE YOU SURE ?
POSITIVE MEET ME AT THE VAULT IN AN HOUR

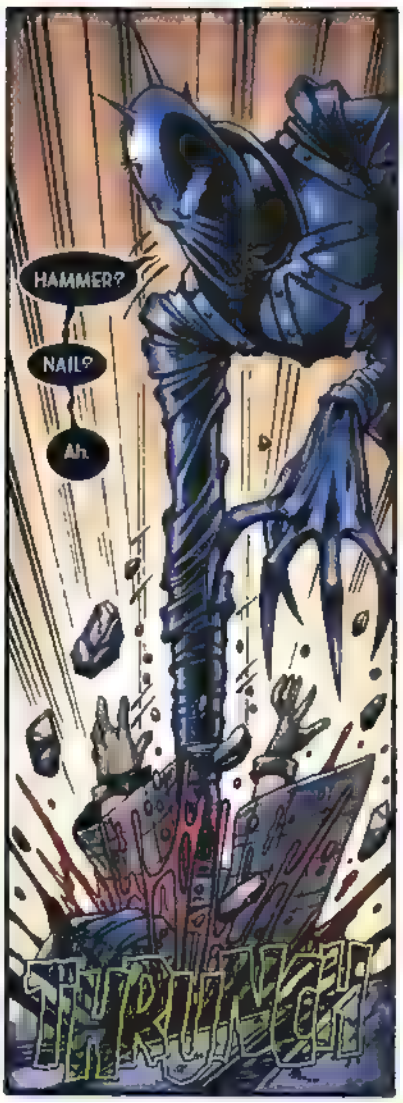
OKAY. YOU'RE HEALED READY TO TAKE ON THAT MONSTER?
DON'T LET GO, JAVI. PRETEND YOU'RE STILL HEALING ME
BUT
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN BEAT HIM I'M
JAVI, I'M AFRAID
SCUTTLING...
...SCURRYING...
...VERMIN...
ALL OF YOU... STOP!

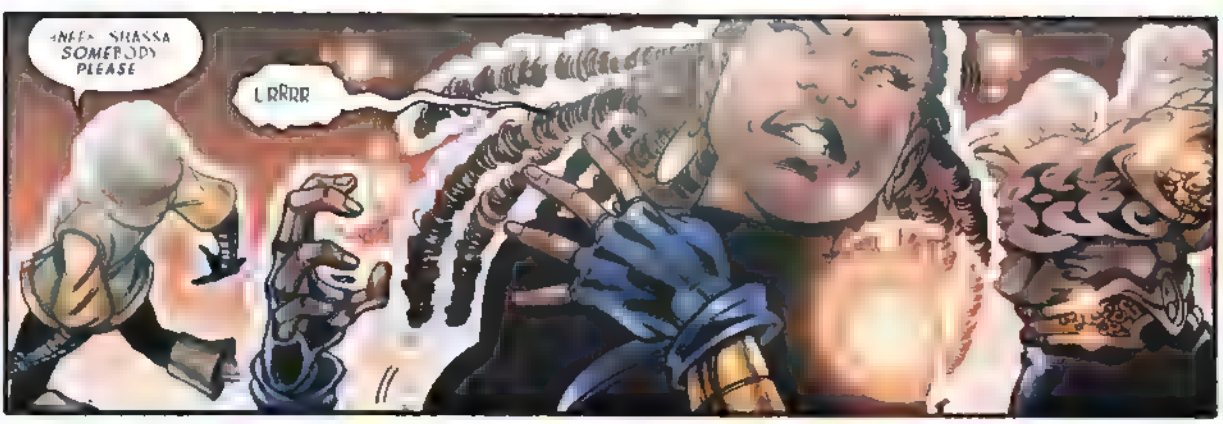

WHULP=
YOU DISGUST ME.
-UHH=

YOUR... SCURRYING... INSULTS THE DIGNITY OF THIS MOMENT.
MANY OF YOU AREN'T EVEN WORTH BOTHERING WITH.
N-NO! LET GO OF ME!
WHO ARE YOU TO JUDGE US? B BY WHAT RIGHT DO YOU--


I WAS BIRTHED TO PUNISH THE FAITHLESS AND TEST THE MIGHTY.
IF YOU ARE MUNDANE, THEN YOU ARE JUST CLUTTER...


Y-YOU CAN BLEED ME EASY ENOUGH, Y UGLY BLURGER BUT YOU SHAN'T ESCAPE YOUR OWN PUN SHMENT!
DRAKE AND M MISTRESS SHASSA W LL HAVE AT YOU RELENTLESSLY--
HAMMER AND TONG TOOTH AND N NAIL !


HAMMER?
NAIL?
Ah.
TRUNK


-NEE- SHASSA SOMEBODY PLEASE
LRRRR

YES!
IMPRESSIVE.
HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS?

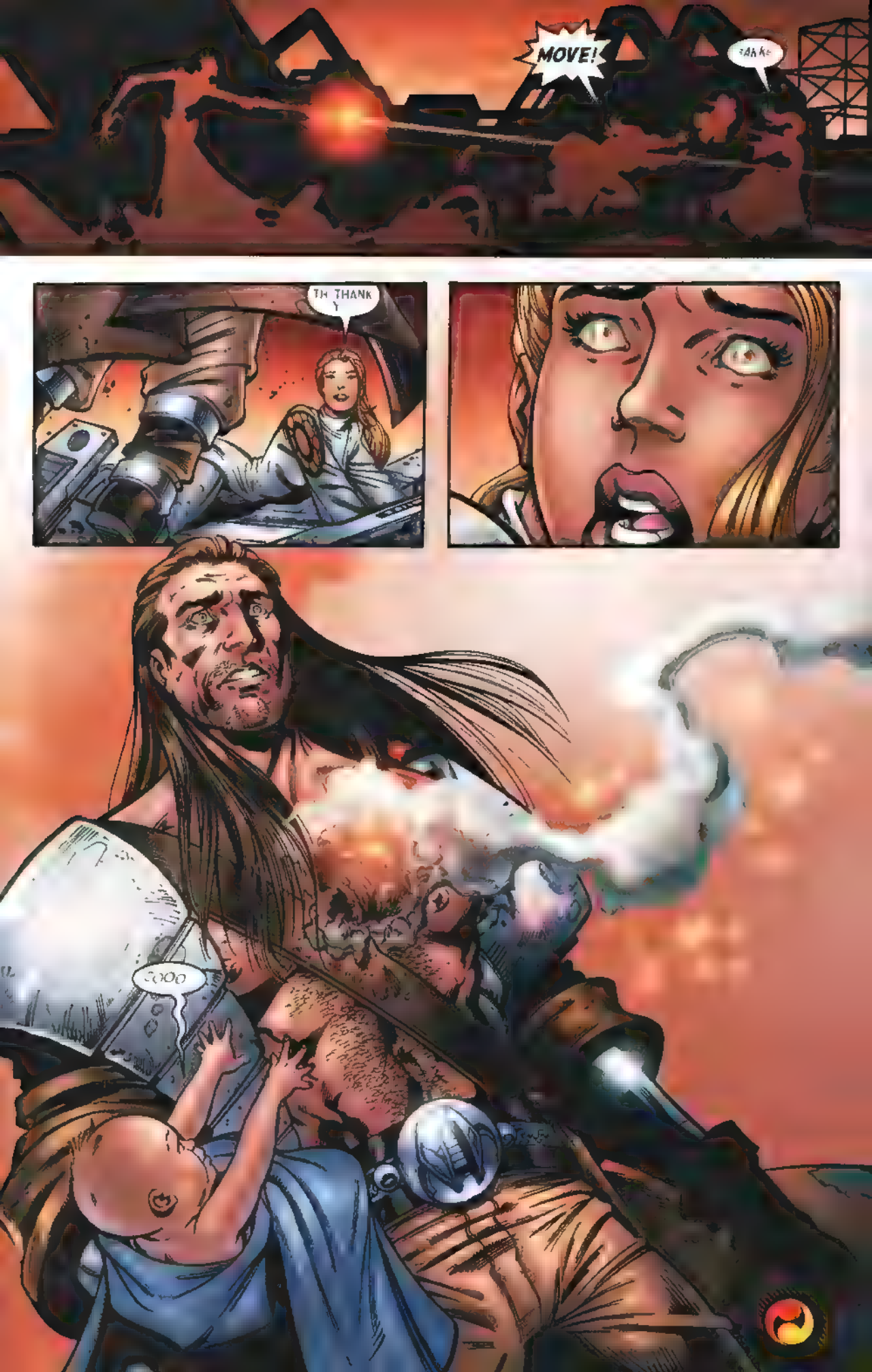
Ah. I FEEL IT NOW.
THE MARK ON YOUR SHOULDER-- THE SIGIL...
...DRAWING OFF MY OWN POWER, THAT YOU MAY USE IT AGAINST ME.
REMARKABLE. DANGEROUS.
WHAT SHALL I DO WITH YOU?
Ah.

WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE IN THE SHIP
THINK HE'LL LET US TAKE OFF?
NO MORE GAMES!

ZARK
ZARK
JUDGMENT WILL NOW BE RENDERED!
ZARK
ZARK
ZZZZZZZZ
YOU... YOU INTEREST ME. YOU LIVE.
I WANT TO WAKE UP NOW. THIS SN'T FUN ANYMORE
YOU DO NOT YOU DIE.
YOU LIVE.
YOU DIE.

WHA' ABOUT ME, MONSTER DO I STILL INTEREST YOU?
Oh, YESSS...

...AS DOES YOUR ENABLER.
UHH?
I SHALL TAKE MY TIME WITH YOU...
...ONCE YOU HAVE ALL BEEN JUDGED..
MASTER WAYNE?!
NO!
JAVI! TO ME!
ZZARK


MOVE!
TH THANK Y
OOOO

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

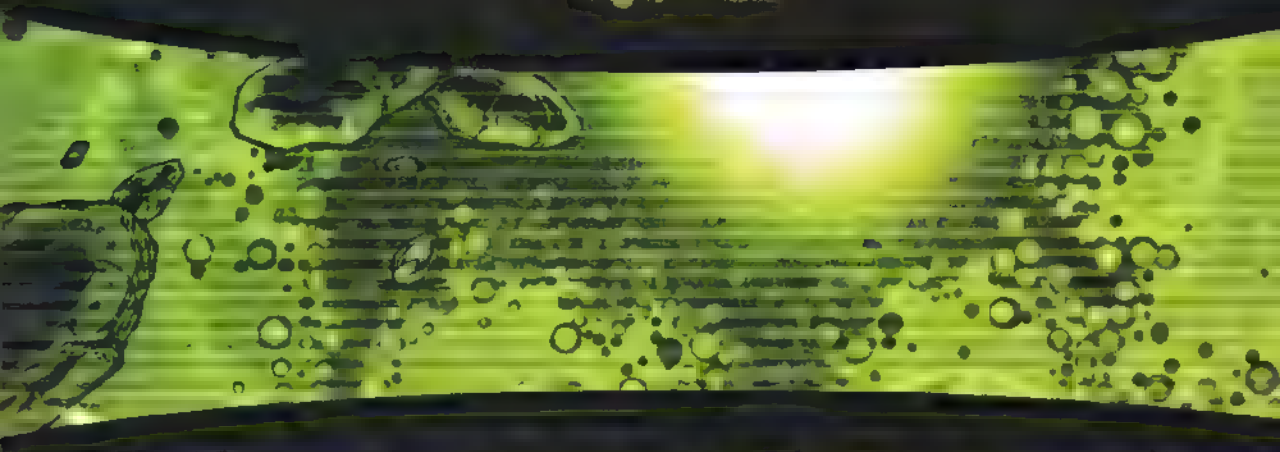
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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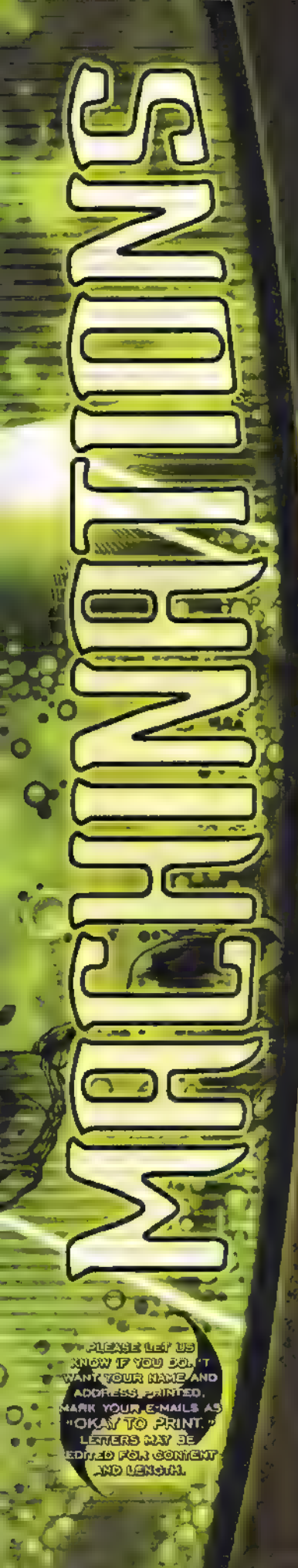

MACHINATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Dear NEGATION crew,

This letter is a long time in coming. I am a 40-year-old male that has been reading comics for as long as I can remember. CrossGen comics are by far the superiors of the comic scene species!

Starting here with you guys: the NEGATION comics are not only rampant with space action and adventure, but are also beautiful works of art that stir my imagination. Everything about this work is top dollar, from artwork to colors – outstanding. I look forward to NEGATION every month and am never left unsatisfied, only wanting more! I just finished issue #7 and am just in love with this storyline and awesome team of experts.

Just wanted to thank you for your hard work and for giving me hours of great entertainment.

All the best,
Michael Goodwin
[redacted]

You're welcome, Michael. We all appreciate your support.

✦

Dear Machinations,

It has been a while since I wrote about NEGATION and it's been a wild roller coaster ride, as promised. Now the reader is at issue #5. What do we know about the characters? Let's see.

Kaine: Haven't gotten the CHRONICLES #7 yet, but going by this book, he is the most intriguing and most developed. He is a true leader.

Evinlea: An arrogant and very alluring First. Over time, I am sure her importance will be revealed. I also hope it is revealed how a First was kidnapped in the first place. When the most powerful being in a universe is captured, what does that say about the Negation's power?

Matua: Love him. It is very clear that he is a loyal person. The fact he's from the world in MYSTIC doesn't hurt either.

Lizard Lady: Love her. The subplot that has started with her is interesting. I'm not sure how long she will have this new appearance, but it becomes her. Is this indefinite or will her appearance go back?

I have never been a big fan of Paul Pelletier's work, but I differ in my opinion here. His art has been excellent, and the two-page spreads have been awesome. As always, Tony Bedard weaves a great tale about this group of fugitives. I look forward to seeing how they get off that ice world.

LaTorre Mays
hollowdream@hotmail.com

By now, LaTorre, you have your answer to our group's escape from the ice planet, and as for Lizard Lady's new look, she'll stay that way until she ingests enough foreign DNA to cause another obvious physical change. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us.

✦

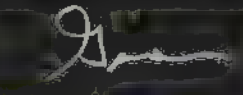
Dear Machinations,

From the very first issue, I knew NEGATION was something special. Carefully blending science fiction with action, drama, and magic has resulted in a story that, coupled with some of the most beautifully illustrated and colored artwork I've seen (even amongst CrossGen titles), has brought to life a breathtaking universe and a set of characters that seem real enough to jump off the page.

I must say though that some of the newer characters introducing themselves at the end of issue #7 have me quite confused. One in particular, (Monchito), looks to me like he's of the same race as the evil Komptin (and hence seems unlikely to have been one of the escaped prisoners). Is it just the tentacles on his head confusing me? Also, the English sounding gent that yells out "Blimey," is he from our Earth, or some other CrossGen world?

David Reily
Australia

Yes, David, those pesky tentacles led you down the garden path; Monchito is of a different species than Komptin, and when it comes to the bespectacled gentleman to whom you refer, he is most definitely not from our Earth.



via snail mail:
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CGE
Tony Bedard
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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the pirate Mercer Drake and the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

The fugitives' luck runs out when Lawbringer Qztr catches up to them in an abandoned alien settlement. Drawn by his curiosity over Evinlea and the Sigil-Bearers, Qztr begins methodically slaying the more mundane members of the group. Attempting to save an infant's life, the Sigil-Bearer named Javi takes one of Qztr's deadly blasts straight through the heart.

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CGE.

WA TAM NJTE

=ahuh=

WAAAAHH!

=a-huh=...

AHHHHHHHH!

MEM!!

BABY GIRL--!

CHOOM

GO, ZADA! I'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

ZARK

ZARK

ZARK

Ah.

OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO HIT HIM ALL TOGETHER!

C'MON, EVIN...EA!

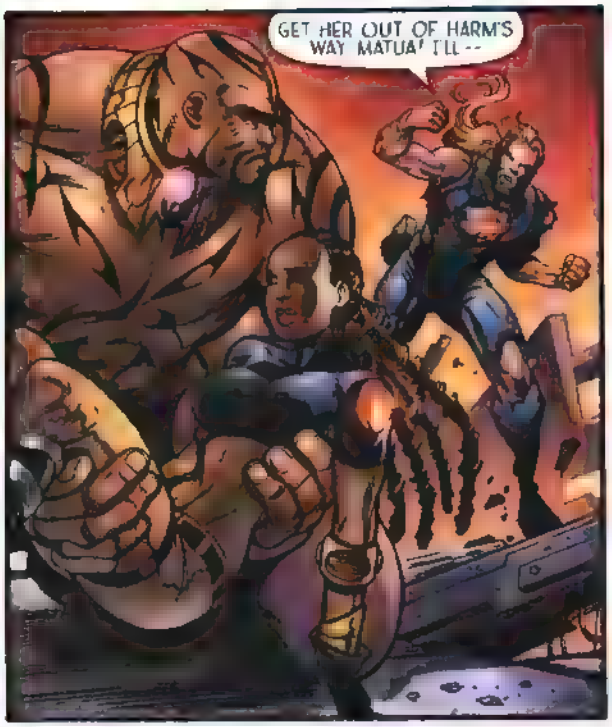
BUT-

NOTHING FANCY

JUST KNOCK HIM DOWN!
UNGH
REALLY
KAKK

WESTIN! GET TO THE SHIP AND START HER UP! T'ME TO SKY OUTTA HERE!
WON'T THAT THING JUST CRUNCH US LIKE A CHUG-CAN ONCE WE'RE ALL INSIDE?
NOT IF HE'S DISTRACTED ME AND EVINLEA CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT!

EVERYBODY GET TO THE SHIP! WE'RE BUSTING OFF ASAP!


GET HER OUT OF HARM'S WAY MATUA! I'LL --

STIMULATION...
MY MOST STIMULATING ENCOUNTER IN A VERY, VERY LONG TIME.
GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF ME!

LOOK OUT!
WRONG WAY, KAINE!
WHERE'S ZAIDA?
LORDS OF HALGEDAE WHY TAKE JAV! WHY HIM?
ZAIDA! HIT THE
SHOOM
DECK- !

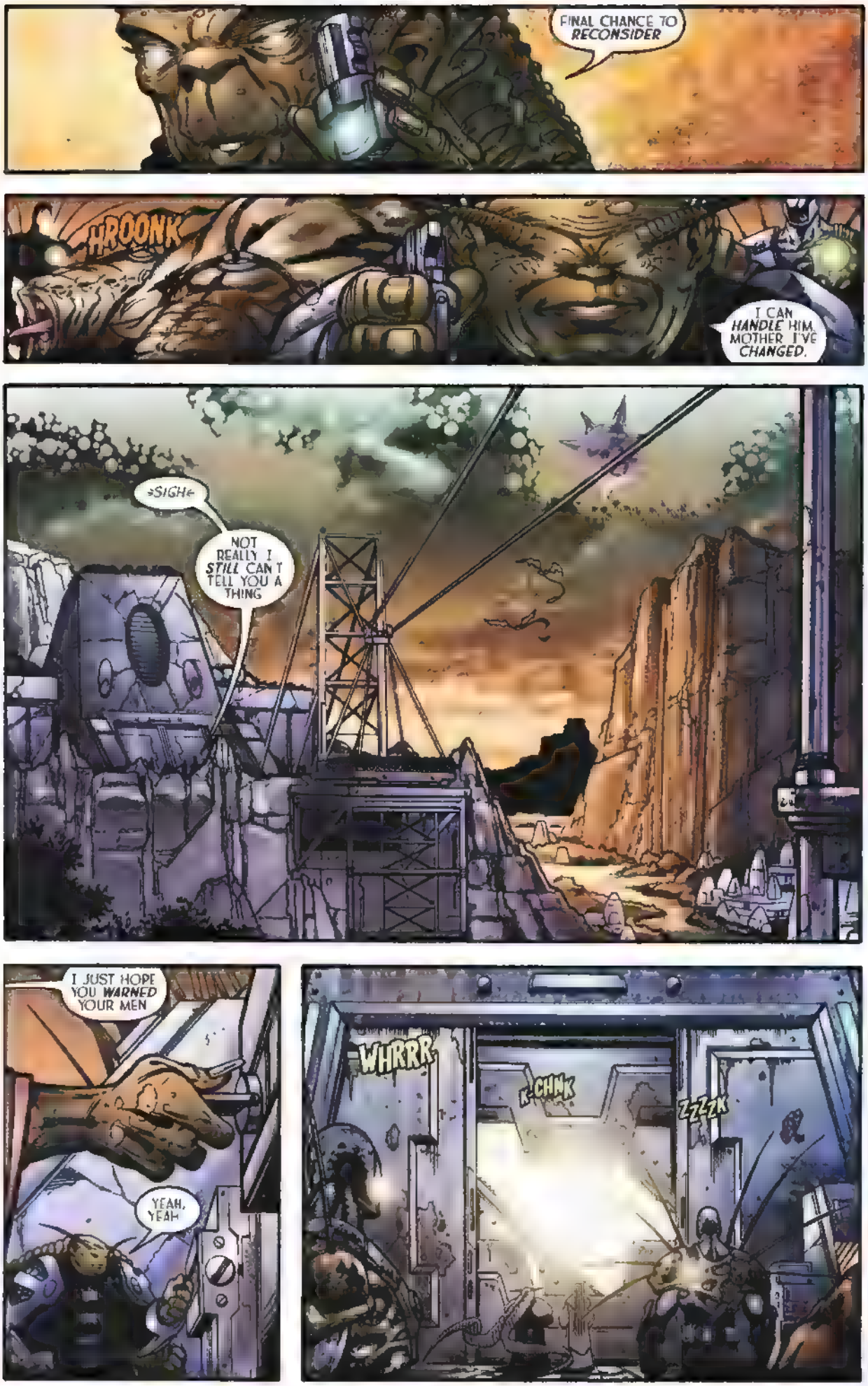
"SINCE NO THREAT, OR TORTURE, OR MIND PROBE--SINCE NO *NEGATIVE* INDUCEMENT HAS YIELDED *RESULTS* WITH YOU...I THINK A *POSITIVE* REWARD MAY PROVE MORE PERSUASIVE."
SO I'M PREPARED TO OFFER YOU *FREEDOM*.
I DO NOT ASK MUCH IN RETURN. ONE THING, REALLY.
SEE, WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO IT, WHAT INTRIGUES ME MOST ABOUT YOU IS THIS *SIGIL* ON YOUR CHEST.
IT ISN'T LIKE THE FAULTY *RED AND YELLOW* ONES THAT EMPOWER SOME OF THE *FUGITIVES* CONFRONTED BY MY LAWBRINGER.
NO, YOUR SIGIL FUNCTIONS *PERFECTLY* HERE. ITS ENERGIES TASTE UNIQUE, AND YET... *FAMILIAR*.
SHLUK
UNH
JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU GOT IT. JUST TELL ME HOW IT WORKS.

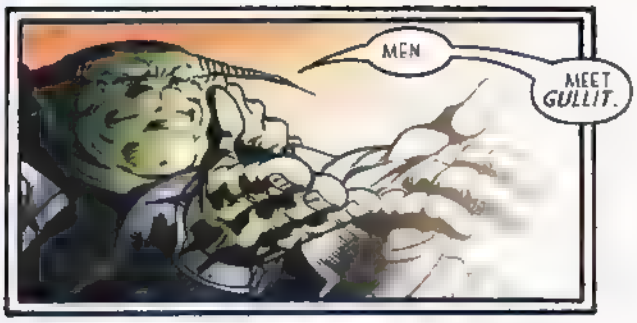
SIX WEEKS OF TORTURE AND NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO TRUST YOU?
IN THAT TIME, YOU HAVE SEEN THAT I AM NOT WITHOUT REASON AND HONOR.
I OFFER YOU AN HONEST DEAL. JUST TELL ME WHO GAVE YOU THIS MARK, AND I WILL RETURN YOU TO YOUR UNIVERSE...
...TO YOUR EARTH.
Heh.
Heh, heh, heh
YOU SEEM TO KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN THIS GODFORSAKEN UNIVERSE BUT I'M STILL A BLIND-SPOT TO YOU.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THAT MEANS TO ME
IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT'S KEPT ME GOING!

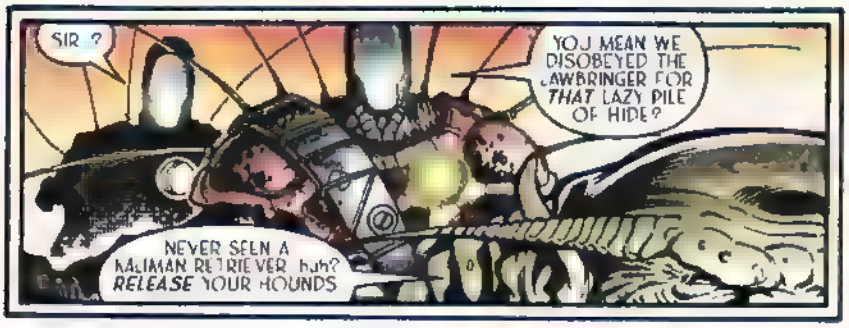
ZAIDA
MEMI
MURDERER! COWARD! BABY KILLER!
SO..YOU'VE ACTUALLY COME TO CARE FOR THESE VERMIN ?
GET EVERYONE INTO THE SHIP AND GO. EVINCEA AND I WILL STAY BEHIND AND KEEP THE LAWBRINGER BUSY
DOES SHE KNOW YOU'RE VOLUNTEERING HER TO DIE ?
THAT THING'S OBSESSED WITH HER - SHE'S DEAD ALREADY
AAHHH -- WAHHHHH....!
Eh?

ZAIDA ?
OHHH.
WAAAAHH!
-a-huh-
AHHHHHHHH!
-a-huh-
IMPOSSIBLE!
GET UP, ZAIDA! YOU CAN EXPLAIN LATER!
WAAH-WAAAAH. AHHHH
-a-huh-
WAAH---
-a-huh-
-a-huh-

WAAAAHH!
-a-huh-.
AHHHHHHHH!
NO! DON'T HURT HER!
DID KOMPTIN SEND YOU? IT'S ME HE WANTS NOT THE KID!
-a-huh-
AHHHH.
WAAAAHH!
-huh-
NO, GOD, NOOO!


FINAL CHANCE TO RECONSIDER
HROONK
I CAN HANDLE HIM, MOTHER. I'VE CHANGED.
SIGH
NOT REALLY. I STILL CAN'T TELL YOU A THING
I JUST HOPE YOU WARNED YOUR MEN
YEAH, YEAH
WHRRR
K-CHNK
ZZZZK


MEN.
MEET GULLIT.


SIR ?
YOU MEAN WE DISOBEYED THE JAWBRINGER FOR THAT LAZY PILE OF HIDE?
NEVER SEEN A KALIMAN RETRIEVER huh? RELEASE YOUR HOUNDS

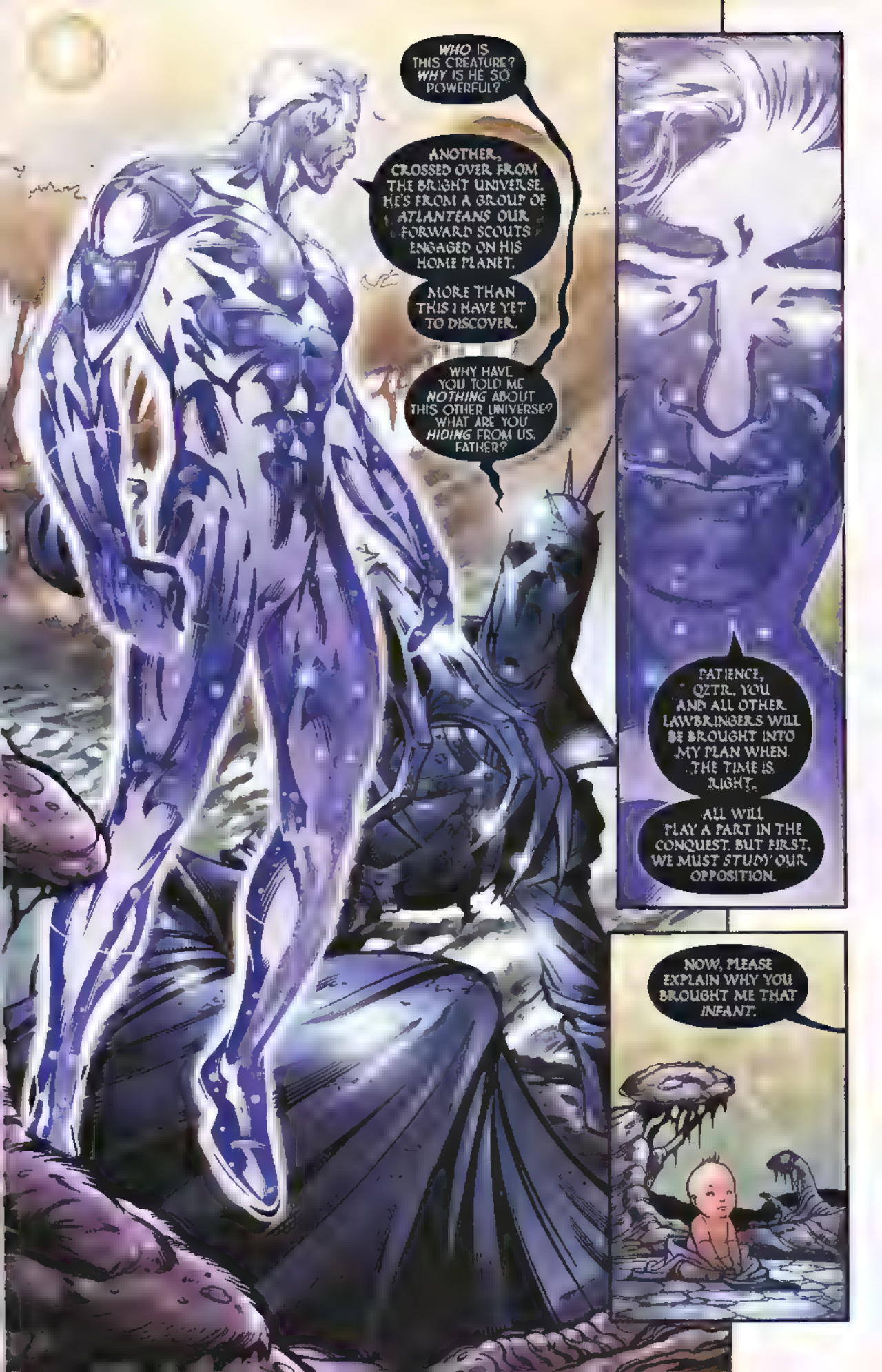
SIR ?
THAT'S AN ORDER!
YES, SIR
TRAMPLER, SHREDDER ATTACK!
HROONK
HROONK
GYOAARRR!

GYAOWWRR!!
HREENK*
HREEK*
SHREDDER--!
FALL BACK! FALL BACK!
GOOD DOG, SLUT YOU REMEMBER ME RIGHT? YES YES YOU DO
WELL AT LEAST IT WON'T BE ON OUR PLANET ANYMORE

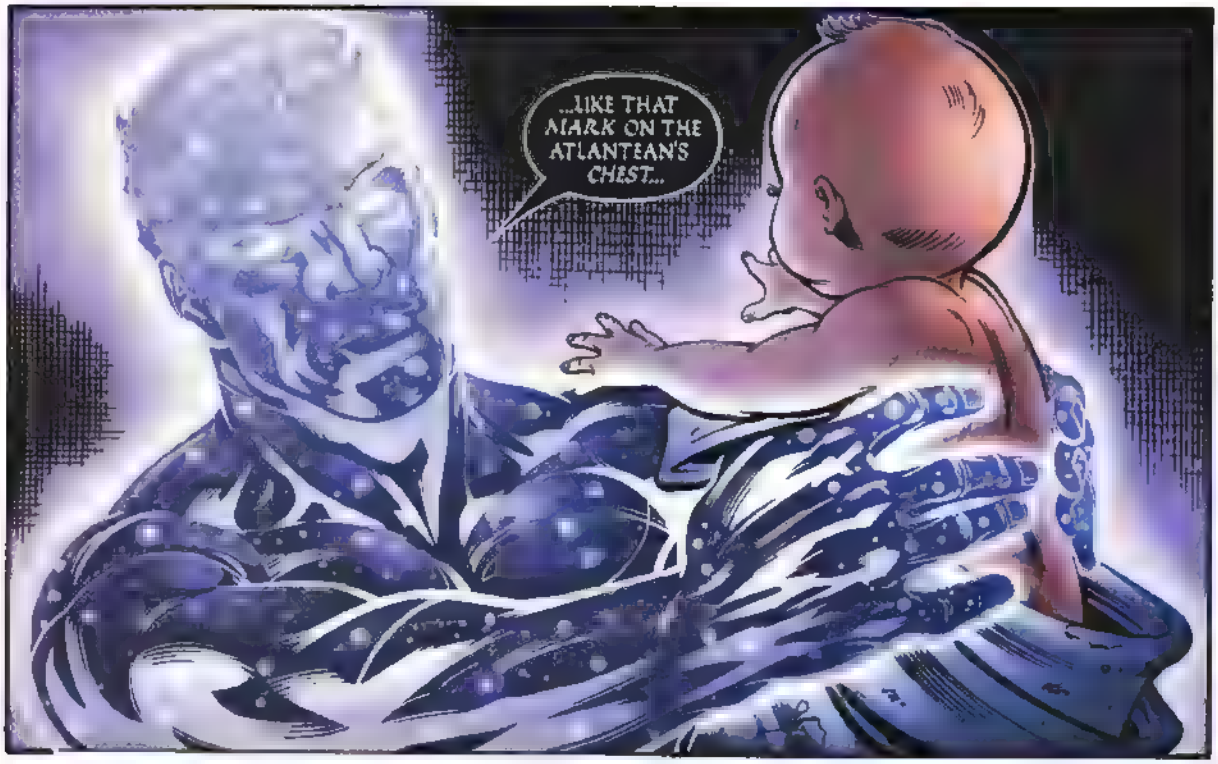
AHHHHHHHH!!
WAAH - AHHHH ..
ZAP
ZARK
THAT'S IT!
FATHER!..?
FATHER!

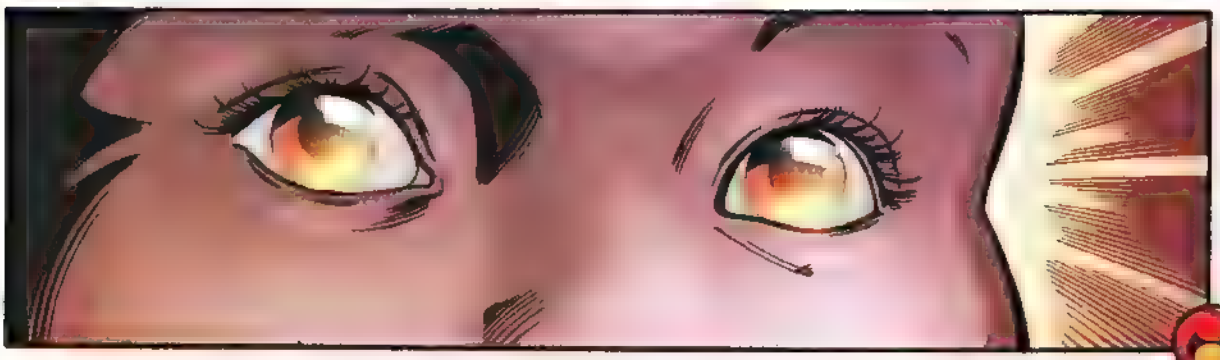
QZTRU! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. WHAT BRINGS YOU?
UNHOLY ABOMINATION--
--YOU DARE ASSAULT THE DIVINE PRESENCE?!

ARRR!
=WHUNG=
THE SENTENCE FOR HERESY IS--
NO, QZTR. THIS ONE STILL SERVES OUR PURPOSES.


WHO IS THIS CREATURE? WHY IS HE SO POWERFUL?
ANOTHER, CROSSED OVER FROM THE BRIGHT UNIVERSE. HE'S FROM A GROUP OF ATLANTEANS OUR FORWARD SCOUTS ENGAGED ON HIS HOME PLANET.
MORE THAN THIS I HAVE YET TO DISCOVER.
WHY HAVE YOU TOLD ME NOTHING ABOUT THIS OTHER UNIVERSE? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING FROM US, FATHER?
PATIENCE, QZTR. YOU AND ALL OTHER LAWBRINGERS WILL BE BROUGHT INTO MY PLAN WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT.
ALL WILL PLAY A PART IN THE CONQUEST. BUT FIRST, WE MUST STUDY OUR OPPOSITION.
NOW, PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU BROUGHT ME THAT INFANT.

THAT CHILD IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS, FATHER. IT SURVIVED A DIRECT HIT FROM ONE OF MY PLASMA-BURSTS WITHOUT A SCRATCH!
YES...YES, I CAN SENSE SOMETHING... IT...
...IT FEELS LIKE...


...LIKE THAT MARK ON THE ATLANTEAN'S CHEST...



STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

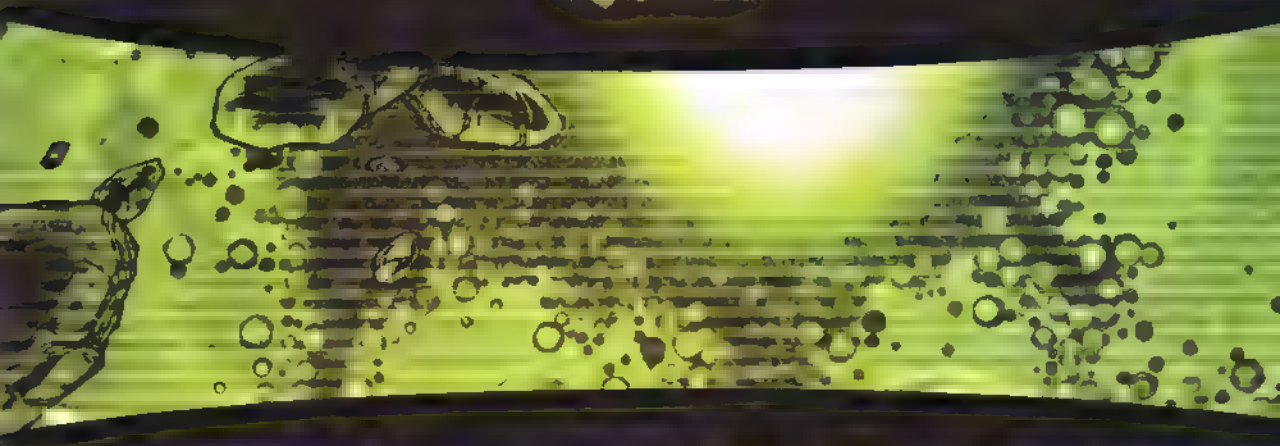
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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NEGATIONS
"PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Howdy, Gina!

Well, we finally get to drop in on Charon in issue #7 and see what he's up to, and, hey, what *is* he up to? Who is this mysterious prisoner who has thrown Charon for such a loop and can bar the god-emperor from his mind? We don't get a good enough look at him, but we know it's a man with short hair. Hmm. Not much to go on. Could it be Galvan from CRUX? He disappeared through the Negation portal and hasn't been seen since (or was that his brother?)

The Drake and Shassa vs. Evinlea fight was great! Not just a pointless slugfest either. Kaine seems to give the impression that he engineered the fight to deliberately drive a wedge between Javi and Evinlea, but I really don't see how he had a part in it. Is he taking credit for this to build his reputation as the rightful leader of this group? Doesn't seem like him to do that.

At the end of the book we see several characters that I don't recall seeing before. Is this Tony's clever nod to the "Red Shirt Syndrome" from *Star Trek*? Fodder for "dramatic deaths" without killing a major cast member? Certainly seems the case given what happened to that poor girl -- who happened to bear a resemblance to Michelle Pugliese (coincidence?), and was that Mark Waid next to her in appropriate RUSE costume? I also see a character obviously pulled from the world of WAY OF THE RAT. Nice touch.

Jeez, this Qztr guy introduces himself by slaughtering one of the prisoners! What's he gonna do when he really gets mad?

Jared Moraitis
punkmonkey@earthlink.net
Newton, NC

That was Gamnaid who went through the portal, Jared -- but you know that now. And, I think you've misinterpreted Kaine's actions from Matua's comment, who didn't hear the conversation Kaine had with Zaida. Kaine knew that Evinlea wouldn't suffer any permanent damage from her encounter with Shassa and he states, on page 18 that he needs Evinlea to grow up and learn some humility for the group to survive. As for those poor folks who ended up dying, any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely a coincidence.

Gina. (Do you mind if I call you Gina?)

NEGATION #7 was a solid issue, keeping up the pace of previous issues and still breaking new ground. I had some problems with it, but it still kept me enthralled while reading.

Charon's appearance at the beginning of this issue was a good move. It introduced some new plot points and gives the art team a chance to show off their admirable skills. The two-page splash on pages 2 and 3 was very well done. I look forward to seeing much of Charon in the future.

Every month I like Kaine's character less and less. This month was no exception. First he wants Evinlea to take down Drake like the others, but soon he decides to have Evinlea take a fall to have her taken down a peg or two. Right now I believe his leadership is going to his head and almost hope Evinlea will take over as group leader (despite how wicked she can sometimes be, I really felt for her when she burned her hands.) Although I know Bedard has this all planned out, I hope Kaine soon has his head taken out of the clouds, because he definitely needs a reality check.

My one major gripe with the book is the character of Komptin. This character is so predictable he is almost turning comic. I have always felt Komptin's character would be better left out of the book, but this issue confirms my beliefs. Qztr is a very cool villain, but Komptin's continued meddling is taking away from the villain. I simply cannot believe that Komptin is stupid enough, after Qztr's explicit orders not to interfere, to become angered and most likely will actually stop Qztr from killing Kaine. I'm afraid this portion of the comic is so dreadfully predictable it's making the comic suffer as a whole.

Mr. Pelletier handled the fight scenes wonderfully. I felt every punch. The rest of the book was well done too: Qztr's appearance was a standout. The inking by Mr. Meikis was also nicely done. He's doing great work on this book and is a great match with Mr. Pelletier. I'm really loving the colors by Mr. Rochelle. The book has its own look and much of this is thanks to Mr. Rochelle's brilliant color renderings. Bravo!

My advice: get rid of Komptin and the book will be perfect.

Robert Taylor
rmsuso@core.com

Sure you may call me Gina, Robert; by this time I feel as if we're old friends. Now, as a friend, and as I said to Jared, let me point out that Kaine knew what his objective was with the fight between Evinlea, Drake, and Shassa right from the beginning. His ego had nothing to do with it. About Komptin, I wouldn't go jumping to conclusions, if I were you. The "vicious cur," as Qztr calls him, has an important role to play in our story, so he's going to be around for a while. Besides, a perfect book would be so boring!

via snail mail:
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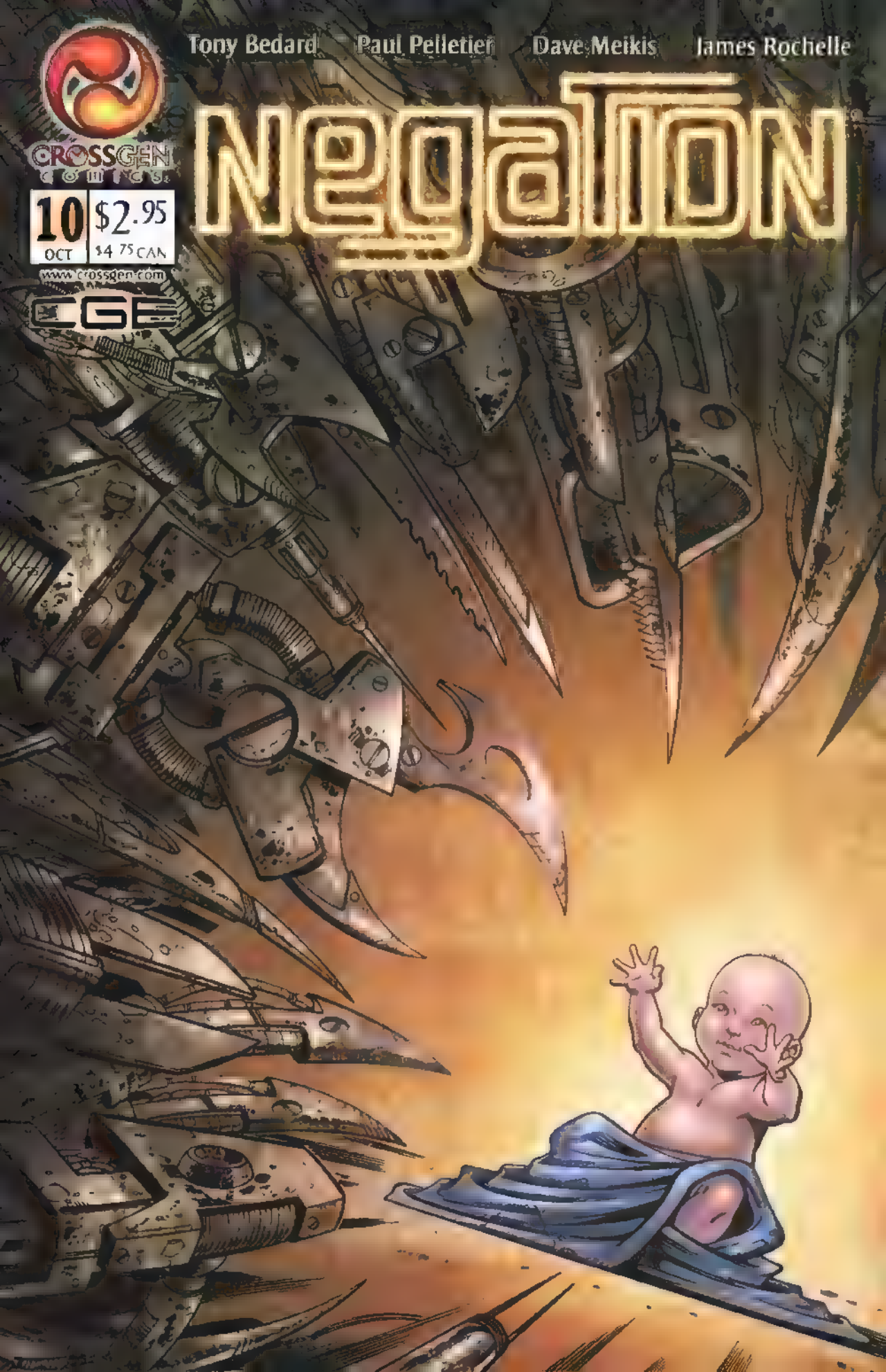
or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)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James Rochelle
Negation
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CGE

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the pirate Mercer Drake and the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

After slaying several of the fugitives, the mighty Lawbringer Oztr abruptly departs with the infant girl, Memi, who mysteriously survived a direct hit from one of Oztr's plasma blasts. Kaine must console Memi's mother, Zaida, even as he struggles to respond to the child's abduction. Meanwhile, baby Memi is the center of attention in Charon's laboratories...

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N THE NAME OF THE CREATOR, MAY YOU REST IN PEACE
QUOLZAG PING MIEJELL AGLAREB
JAVI
SORRY I COULDN'T COME UP WITH SOMETHING BETTER
IT'LL HAVE TO DO MATUA. YOU'RE THE CLOSEST WE HAVE TO A HOLY MAN
DON'T GIVE UP HOPE. THE DARK ONE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SLAY YOUR CHILD. WE MAY YET RESCUE HIM
HER MEM'S A HER
THANK YOU, um
IRESS
IRESS
IRESS, WHAT DO THEY WANT WITH MY BABY...?

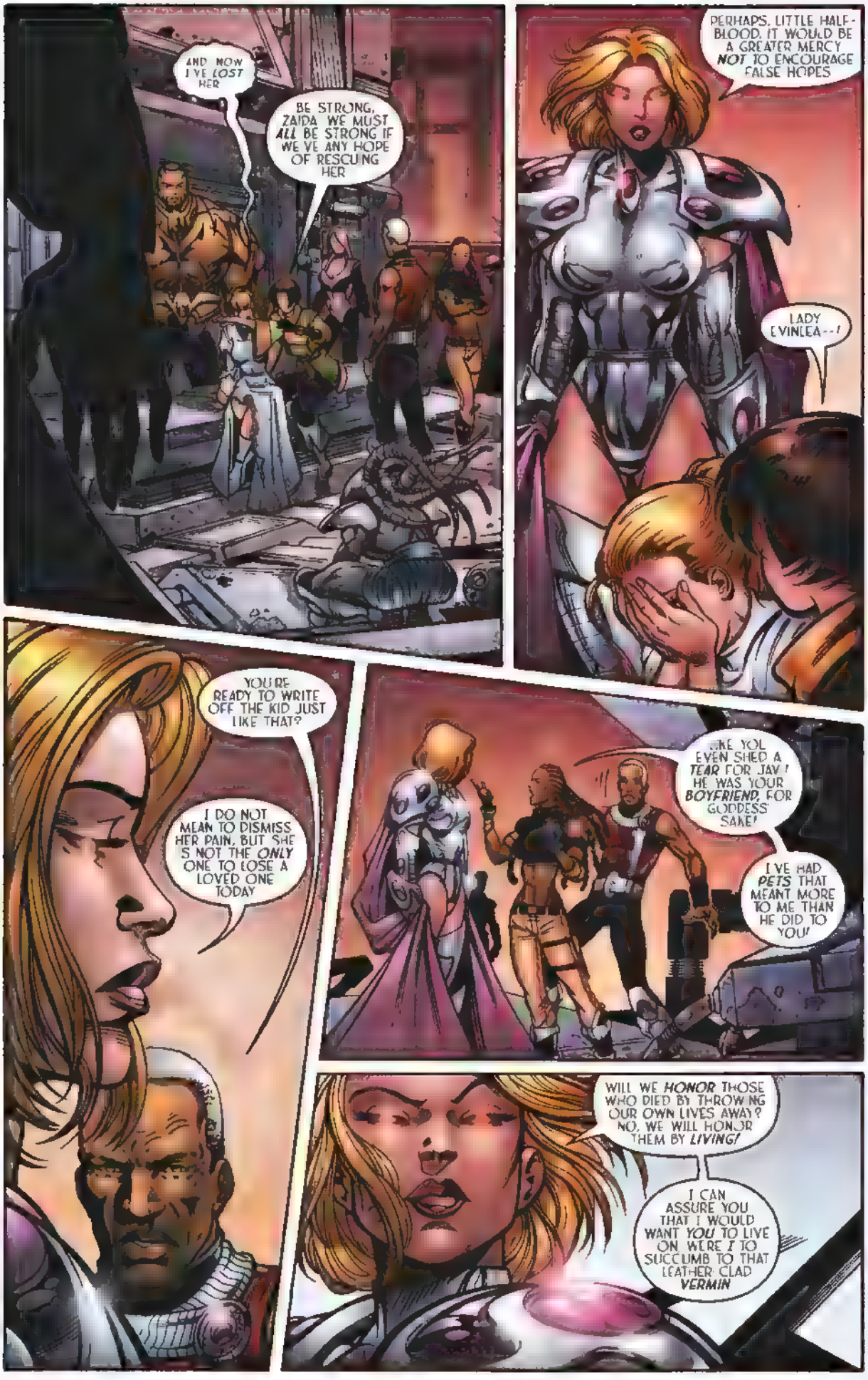
I USED TO WATCH YOU BACK ON THE PRISON-WORLD I ALWAYS FELT FOR YOU AND THAT POOR CHILD IN SUCH A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT
YOU'RE A REMARKABLE MOTHER TO HAVE KEPT HER ALIVE THIS LONG
THAT'S RICH, CONSIDERING IT WAS ALL AN ACCIDENT IN THE FIRST PLACE
I WAS ADOPTED WE LIVED MILES FROM OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR
MY BIGGEST THRILL WAS THE ODD TRIP INTO TOWN WHEN I MIGHT ACTUALLY SEE A NEW FACE, OR GET NEWS FROM THE CITY
MY FOLKS WEREN'T BAD PEOPLE, BUT THEY WEREN'T VERY OPEN WITH THEIR FEELINGS. EITHER THEY THOUGHT JOKES WERE IDLE CHATTER AND MUSIC WAS THE DEVIL'S WORK
I LOVED THEM, BUT I COULDN'T WAIT TO GET AWAY FROM THEM
THEN ONE DAY THE TRACTOR BROKE DOWN AND THE DEALERSHIP SENT OUT A MAN HE STAYED WITH US FOR TWO DAYS
BY THEN HE'D FIXED THE TRACTOR AND LEFT MY LIFE IN SHREDS

FINAL FANTASY
OUTCOME

HIS NAME WAS COBI
I HAD NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE HIM
I NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED THAT HE'D *CALL* ME AND *WRITE* AND *COME BACK* FOR ME ONE DAY
OF COURSE HE NEVER DID
A FEW MONTHS LATER I COULD NO LONGER HIDE WHAT HAD *HAPPENED* DURING THOSE TWO DAYS. MY PARENTS FELT BETRAYED. THEY THREW ME OUT
I WENT TO LITA CITY WHERE COBI SAID HE LIVED, BUT HE WASN'T *LISTED* IN THE COMMBOOK
BY THE TIME I FIGURED OUT THAT FINDING ONE PERSON IN A CITY OF THREE MILLION IS PRETTY NEAR IMPOSSIBLE, ALL MY HOPES HAD BEEN *CRUSHED*.

SO I GOT A JOB, RENTED A SHOEBOX APARTMENT, AND SPENT MY DAYS WONDERING WHY THE ONLY GOOD THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME HAD GONE SO WRONG
I DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS, OR WHO I WANTED TO BE. I DIDN'T HAVE A CLUE WHY GOD EVER WASTED A LIFE ON *ME* AND I *BLAMED* THE LIFE THAT WAS GROWING *WITHIN* ME
AND THEN ONE MORNING I WOKE UP IN *THIS* UNIVERSE WITH NO IDEA HOW I GOT HERE. I ONLY KNEW THAT MY PASSAGE HAD BROUGHT ON THE *BIRTH*
IT WAS THE FINAL INDIGNITY. I *HATED* THAT CHILD--
--RIGHT UP UNTIL I FIRST SAW HER *FACE*
MY EYES AND NOSE, COBI'S MOUTH AND JAW, ALL BLENDED INTO ONE *PERFECT* LITTLE PACKAGE
I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT MOMENT. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I KNEW FOR SURE WHY I *EXIST*
MEMI'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES ME WORTH THE AIR I BREATHE

TRIAL TWELVE

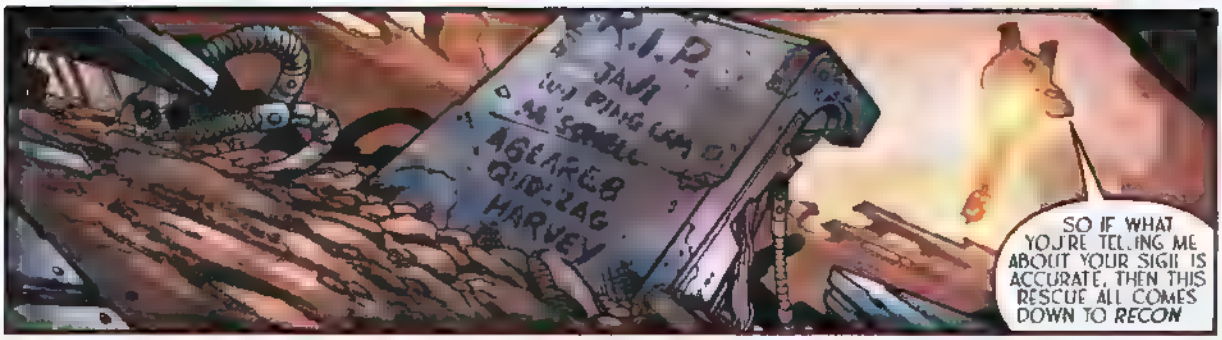

AND NOW I'VE LOST HER
BE STRONG, ZAIDA WE MUST ALL BE STRONG IF WE'VE ANY HOPE OF RESCUING HER
PERHAPS, LITTLE HALF-BLOOD, IT WOULD BE A GREATER MERCY NOT TO ENCOURAGE FALSE HOPES
LADY EVINLEA--!
YOU'RE READY TO WRITE OFF THE KID JUST LIKE THAT?
I DO NOT MEAN TO DISMISS HER PAIN, BUT SHE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE TO LOSE A LOVED ONE TODAY
LIKE YOU EVEN SHED A TEAR FOR JAV! HE WAS YOUR BOYFRIEND, FOR GODDESS' SAKE!
I'VE HAD PETS THAT MEANT MORE TO ME THAN HE DID TO YOU!
WILL WE HONOR THOSE WHO DIED BY THROWING OUR OWN LIVES AWAY? NO. WE WILL HONOR THEM BY LIVING!
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT I WOULD WANT YOU TO LIVE ON WERE I TO SUCCUMB TO THAT LEATHER CLAD VERMIN

EVEN IF WE WANTED TO FIND THE CHILD, WHERE WOULD WE START *LOOKING*? THE NEAREST PLANET? THE NEXT SOLAR SYSTEM? DOES ANYONE KNOW FOR SURE IF SHE IS EVEN IN THE SAME *GALAXY* AS WE ARE?
CAPTAIN FLUXOR! YOU *KNOW* THESE STARS... IS THERE A PARTICULAR NEGATION BASE OR PLANET THAT WOULD BE A LOGICAL DESTINATION?
THERE ARE TEN OR TWENTY OF THEM WITHIN ONE HUNDRED LIGHT-LEAGUES. IT WOULD BE *SUICIDE* TO APPROACH ANY ONE OF THEM UNANNOUNCED.
WHAT PUZZLES ME MORE IS *WHY* THE LAWBRINGER TOOK THE BABY. THOSE THINGS PUNISH ENTIRE *WORLDS*, NOT THE LONE OFFSPRING OF A *FARMGIRL*.
YES, THERE'S SOMETHING *ABOUT* YOU, ISN'T THERE?
I COULD SWEAR THAT LEATHER GUY *ZAPPED* YOU POINT-BLANK, BUT YOU WEREN'T SO MUCH AS *SINGED*!

NEVER MIND THE MOMMY. WHAT ABOUT THE LIZARD LADY?!
AM I THE ONLY ONE WONDERING HOW SHE CHANGED COLOR AND GREW FREAKIN GILLS?!
MONCHITO ?
DON'T FORGET, I'VE BEEN WITH THEM ALMOST EVERY DAY SINCE WE GOT KIDNAPPED TO THIS GODFORSAKEN UNIVERSE
LET US STICK TO THE TOPIC IF THERE IS MORE TO YOU AND THE CHILD THAN MEETS THE EYE --
IF THEY WERE ANYTHING MORE THAN A MOTHER AND A CHILD, I'D BE THE FIRST TO KNOW
IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT THE FAWBRINGER DIDN'T HIT ZAIDA AND MEMI, OR THEY'D BE TOAST RIGHT NOW
IT WAS A NEAR MISS. I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE

TRIAL THIRTY-TWO

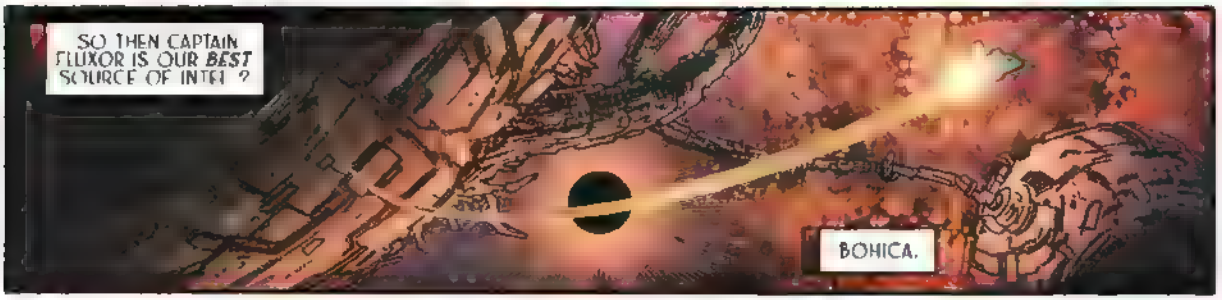
RAINE, I
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE AN EDGE IN FINDING THE CHILD
HOW SO?
IT HAS TO DO WITH THE WAY MY SIGIL WORKS I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE SHIP
YOU HEARD THE MAN! LET'S SKY!
HOLD ON, THERE, CHIEF! YOU CAN'T ASSUME WE'RE ALL JUST GONNA RUSH TO OUR DEATHS!
WE SHOULD AT LEAST PUT IT TO A VOTE!
WESTIN, GET IN THE SHIP AND DRIVE RIGHT NOW, OR I VOTE YOU JOIN JAV! IN THAT HOLE IN THE GROUND!


R.I.P.
JAVI
AGEARE8
QUIZZAG
HARVEY
SO IF WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME ABOUT YOUR SIGIL IS ACCURATE, THEN THIS RESCUE ALL COMES DOWN TO *RECON*

STARTING WITH THE LAWBRINGER'S *LOCATION*
UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONLY ONES WITH THAT KIND OF INTEL ARE GOING TO BE NEGATION *TOP BRASS*
OR *ANOTHER* LAWBRINGER
I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES WITH *SANE* KILLERS
YOU AND ME BOTH

FLUXOR MIGHT KNOW WHICH NEGATION GENERALS ARE CLOSEST TO THE TOP
HE'S *NATIVE* TO NEGATION SPACE. DID YOUR GROUP ENCOUNTER ANY LOCALS, OR PICK UP A *GUIDE?*

YEAH. THE CURLY HAIRED ONE THE LAWBRINGER *SKEWERED* ON HIS FINGERTIPS


SO THEN CAPTAIN FLUXOR IS OUR *BEST* SOURCE OF INTEL ?
BOHICA.

BOO!
WAAAAHH!
WAAHHHH...!!

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

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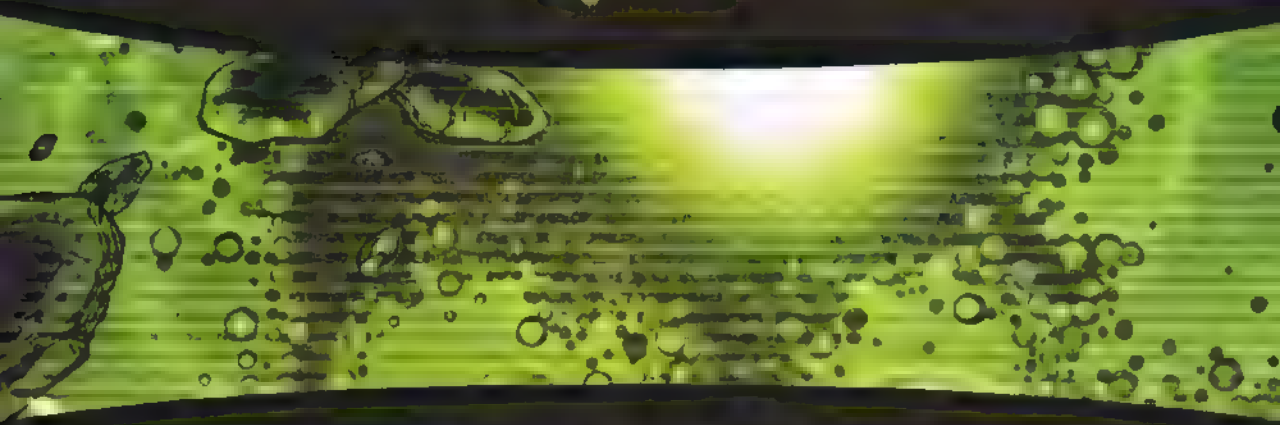

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MACHINATIONS

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Some of you might recall the contest referred to in the letter below. I received it too late to include in last week's books, but it is eminently worth publishing now. We'll be sure it runs in the next issue of the books we missed. Meanwhile, hearty congratulations to Don Smith! This wasn't an easy contest to win, and he deserves every penny of that $20,000!

Mark, Gina, and Crew

As the winner of the "CrossGen Break the Bank Trivia Contest!" it was a pleasure to meet you in San Diego!

The purpose of this letter is twofold. First, I want to thank you and your crew for hours and hours (literally) of entertainment, for the rich and intricate universe you have put together. You have assembled an amazing team from writers and artists to the support troops, some of whom I have been privileged to meet. You should all be very proud of the works you have produced. Second, I want to give some idea of the richness of the hunt I experienced in submitting my entry to the "Break the Bank" Contest.

I have been a fan of your books from day one. You offered a simple guarantee – try CROSSGEN CHRONICLES and the first three issues of any of your initial books: MYSTIC, SIGIL, SCION, or MERIDIAN. *Read 'em.* If unsatisfied, return the books for a full refund! This was unheard of! You promised quality stories, on time (!), with no gimmicks (i.e. no variant covers). A simple philosophy, taking comics back to what they used to be – books to be read, with solid stories and direction, that created anticipation for the next issue – and then delivered it on time! I bought all of your books and quickly found them to be my favorites. I'd bet you had very few takers for refunds!

I found myself reading your books cover to cover. The *Milestones* columns and staff bios provided interesting background information on the development of your philosophy, the assembly of your initial staff, and other highlights of the beginnings of CrossGen Comics. Most importantly, you successfully created self-contained stories that could be read and enjoyed title by title. And underlying them all – amazing and surprising depth: an intricate, interrelated universe with a common thread – the stories of the Sigil-Bearers! There is so, so much more to these stories than the typical three-to-four-issue story arcs you find in most of the comics world. As you have said, you can read and enjoy a single title, but, if you truly want to appreciate them – read them all! I found my subscription list automatically growing with each new title you offered.

I originally saw your contest published in the *Wizard CrossGen Special Edition* with an amazing prize of $10,000. At that time, I told my fiancé, Karen, that I should enter your contest since I had every book you had published and thoroughly enjoyed reading them. But, for one reason or another, the deadline passed and I had only scribbled out a few of the obvious answers. So your original contest came and went, and I failed to submit an entry. I regretted that and searched for any indication of a winner for the contest on your website or in *Wizard*. No sign of a winner! Did I miss it? Then I saw it! *No winner!* And then you guys did the unbelievable – *you doubled the prize!* The gauntlet had been thrown. There was no way I was going to let this challenge go without at least sending in a submission. I declared to Karen that I was going to win this contest!

So I dug in. Some of the questions were quite simple and straightforward and could be answered off the top of my head (i.e. the mentors' shared physical trait). Others took a few minutes to pull the right book and get the answer (which of Mordath's officers is charged with capturing Arwyn in SOJOURN). Just as you have done with the stories in your books, I soon found that the questions in this contest had multiple layers and depth. The books came out of the boxes. I had piles of CrossGen books all over the place! I felt like I was doing a research paper, but the source material was *comic books!* I found myself literally taking notes as I followed threads from one book and title to another.

I re-read books I had not picked up since the first week they were published! When I originally read them, I jumped from title to title as they came out. This time I read each title in order, issue by issue, hunting for details, answers that were contained within a single title. I found that in reading the books again in search of the answers there was so much that I had missed the first time around! And the questions got tougher and trickier! Be careful, now, with the answer to the current members of the High Councils of Houses Dexter and Sinister! No, the mythical creature of MERIDIAN is not the Celanaug! Keep digging!

An amazing thing happened! The hunt turned into a quest! Like Trenin the Hunter, I was not to be denied! Okay…Thierry's gork is named Alphonse, but who is it named after? I read MYSTIC again…and again… where is it? Maybe it's in CROSSGEN ILLUSTRATED! No! How devious can you guys be? Damn – off to the comic shop to get the trade. Now I was really in deep!

Then I hit the tough questions! And, as

my delight, appropriately for the graphic medium of comics, I found my hunt moving from the words to pictures! Clues from words and art combined to form questions, leading to answers! No, Seahn's father is not Trenin! "Doesn't he look familiar?" – aha! Where is Altwaal? Follow the trail of the clues…no, it's not in THE FIRST, but the clues are. The questions keep coming – where are Altwaal's weapons? Not only *where* is Altwaal, but *who* is Altwaal? This universe is all about symbols! There he is!

Then it came down to one question and the entry had to be in the mail the next day! What is the true identity of the detective in RUSE? An almost sleepless night…I read the RUSE books over and over. Look closely at things around Simon! Okay…so which character is it? So, I take a leap and throw in my answer. One submission: all my eggs in one basket, submitted on the deadline!

Then I wait. Then, I get the call from Ian Feller! I *won!* And, I got them *all correct!* I was bouncing off the walls! I still can't believe it! Then Ian tells me you are going to fly me to the San Diego ComiCon and where you and Gareb Shamus from *Wizard* would present me with the big check! I thought I had died and gone to comic heaven!

In San Diego, my family and I had the privilege of meeting many of your staff and creative team members. A special thanks to Michelle Pugliese for handling all the admin stuff courteously and efficiently, John Smith for his entertaining discussions of your recent movie deals and of his appearances in your books, and Barbara Kesel for her time and impassioned and entertaining comments about comics and curriculum – getting kids to read. Although your people were extremely busy, they all took time to treat my family as part of your family! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you and your staff again, Mark, for hours and hours of entertainment!

Well, the hunt for the contest may be over – but the questions raised in the hunt continue – so on I go… you guys and your damn teasers!

Don (in awe of the tale you have put together!) Smith
San Jose, CA

via snail mail:
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Oldsmar, Florida 34677

or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

Welcome to our new combined letters column and company news pages. We think the new design is pretty snazzy.. what do all of you think? Be sure to write and tell us. While I'm waiting for those letters, let me bring you up to speed on some of the latest developments here at CrossGen.

On the media front, some of the biggest names in Hollywood have begun associating themselves with CrossGen TV and film projects. **Chuck Russell,** whose last blockbuster was *The Scorpion King*, announced at Comic-Con International in San Diego that he will tackle WAY OF THE RAT as his next project. Chuck said he will be both writing the screenplay and directing the feature film. After that, he's said he is also committed to a feature film of SCION. **Robert Zemeckis,** the Academy Award®-winning director of *Forrest Gump*, *What Lies Beneath* and *Back to the Future* fame, announced through his company ImageMovers that he will be directing a feature film of ROUTE 666. In addition, **Larry Kasanoff,** famous for the *Mortal Kombat* franchise, said he aims to turn SIGIL and SAURIANS into a weekly television show, hopefully for Fall 2003. Cornerstone Animation, named one of the "top 10 companies to watch in 2002" by *Animation* Magazine, also announced its intention to bring MERIDIAN to animated life on the big screen.

CG Entertainment will be publishing a number of high-profile comics beginning in November 2002 when the acclaimed, Eisner-nominated THE RED STAR joins us as an affiliate. R. A. Salvatore's DEMONWARS, a Code 6 property, will be next out of the chute, in December, and another affiliate, Hurricane's JOHN CARPENTER'S SNAKE PLISSKEN CHRONICLES, will follow in 2003. Up to four additional projects will be announced for publication in the near future.

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, INC. RECOMMENDED GOOD READ!

Recommended Reads

by CrossGen inker Roland Paris

[illegible]

[illegible] series over published. If you are looking for a comic that doesn't have one-dimensional characters, look no further! After only a few pages, [illegible] David are a part of you. They become your friends and you care about them deeply. So, that covers the writing and and if that was all that Terry Moore had to offer, it would be more than enough. But it's not. Thanks to an animation background, Mr. Moore has the uncanny ability to render distinct, real-looking characters. Through his art, he is able to express the characters' love, hate, happiness, and sorrow – without a single word balloon or caption [illegible] If you do not currently read this series, do yourself a favor. Pick it up. Give it a shot. I promise you will not be sorry.

CGE
11
NOV
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NEGATION
Tony Bedard • Yanick Paquette • Drew Geraci • Justin Thyme

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the NEGATION

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the pirate Mercer Drake and the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Stolen from Kaine's group by the mighty Lawbringer Qztr, the infant girl, Memi, was subjected to various cruel experiments by Charon's scientists, who found her to be mysteriously invulnerable. Meanwhile, Kaine's fugitives have set into motion a rescue plan. Their first challenge is to discover Memi's current location...

Negation® Vol. 1 Issue 11 NOVEMBER 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. Negation® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics™ CrossGeneration® CrossGeneration Comics™ and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo™ and all prominent Negation® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

TODAY'S COMMCAST IS DEVOTED TO OUR MOST VENERATED MILITARY LEADER -- A MAN WHO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CONQUERING THIS GALAXY FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF CHARON, BLESSED BE HIS NAME...
GREATEST WAR HERO IN HISTORY? SHORT'A THE EMPEROR HIMSELF? THAT'S EASY: GENERAL MURQUADE.
HEY, IS HE GONNA SEE THIS?
We used to be the richest planet in the sector until he crashed the moon down on us for cheating the tithe.
That was five hundred annos ago. Folks still don't repeat his name around here.
HE GAVE US A CHANCE TO SURRENDER, AND WE DID. THE OTHER CITY-STATES CHOSE TO FIGHT.
THEY'RE ALL GONE NOW...
EVERY YEAR WE GET FLOODED WITH REQUESTS FOR TRANSFERS INTO THE GENERAL'S BATTLE GROUP. TELL YOU THIS: THEY'RE NOT GETTING MY SLOT.
WE REGRET THAT GENERAL MURQUADE WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR AN INTERVIEW. AS BATTLE GROUP CLARION DEPLOYED TO THE RAMPHO SYSTEM TO HUNT SOME TROUBLEMAKERS: WHO WILL SOON BE VERY, VERY SORRY...

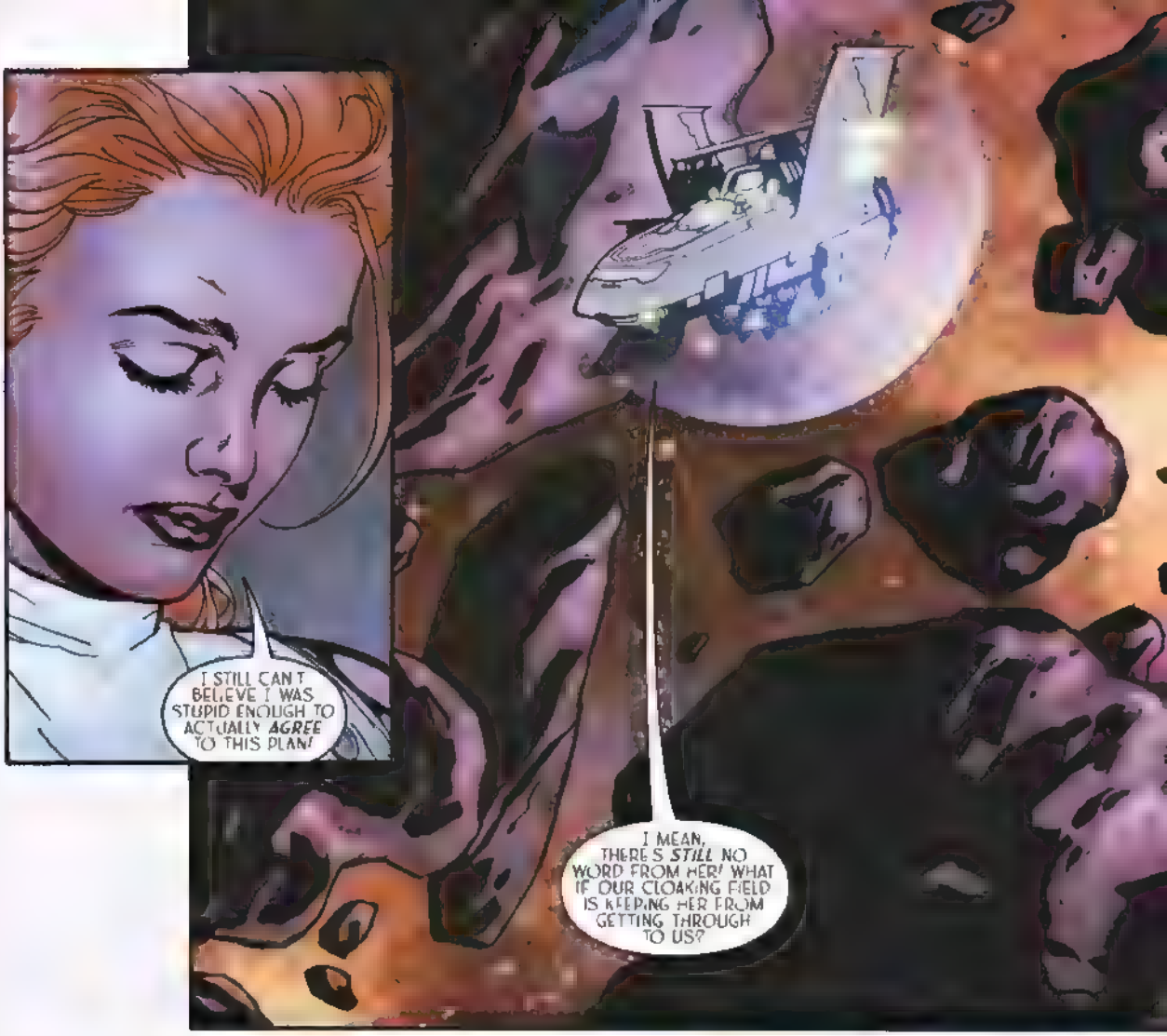
ANY SIGN OF THEM? I'M GETTING BORED
NO, SIR. BUT I DO HAVE SOMETHING YOU MIGHT FIND INTERESTING
DENT FILES ON TWO NEW PRISONERS WE JUST BROUGHT ABOARD. THE INTERESTING PART IS THEY TURNED THEMSELVES IN

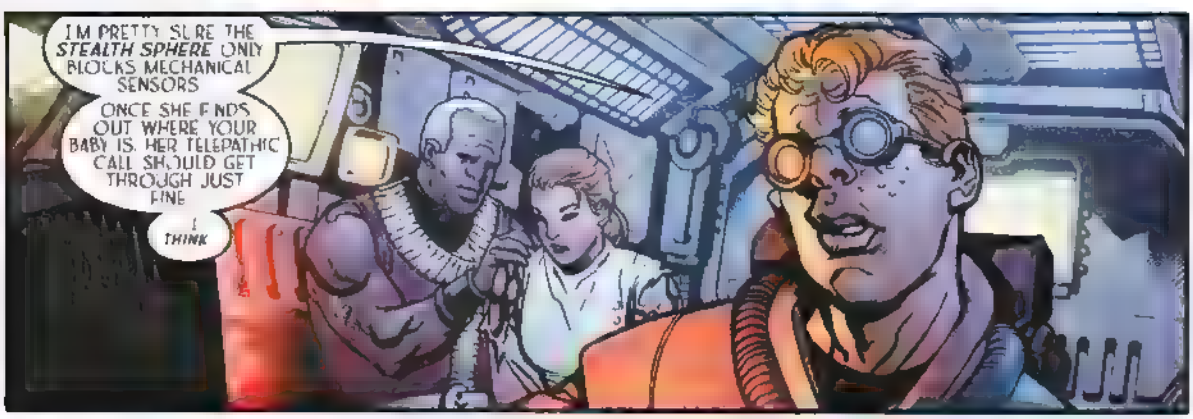
IN FACT, GENERAL, THEY WALKED INTO OUR OUTPOST ON DAGRAX REQUESTING TO SURRENDER TO *YOU* PERSONALLY
AND WHAT MAKES THEM THINK THEY CAN WASTE *MY* TIME
WAIT A MINUTE. THESE TWO LOOK *FAMILIAR*. THERE WAS A *PRISON ESCAPE* NEAR THE PERIPHERY A FEW WEEKS AGO
GOOD WORK COLONEL
YES, SIR. *ORDERS?*
PAFF
INFORM THE BRIG CASTELLAN THAT I'LL BE CONDUCTING THIS INTERROGATION *MYSELF*
IN THE MEANTIME KEEP THE BATTLE GROUP SEARCHING FOR OUR *PRIME OBJECTIVE*. AND LINK ME THE INSTANT A SEARCH TEAM REPORTS *CONTACT*
GENERAL! THIS IS A RARE HONOR! ALLOW ME TO
JUST TAKE ME TO THEM, CASTELLAN
OF COURSE SIR. RIGHT THIS WAY

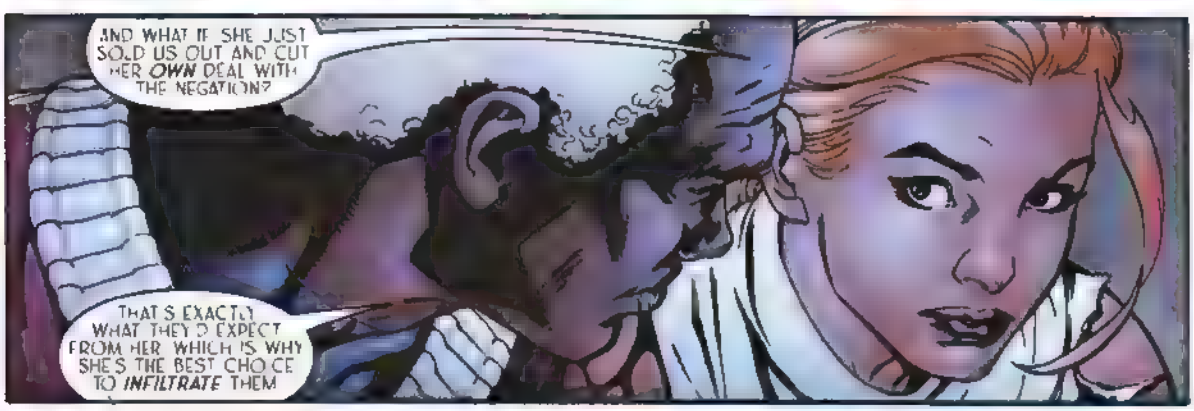
LADIES WELCOME ABOARD THE CLARION
YOU ARE THE ONE CALLED MURQUADE?
I AM EVINLEA OF THE FIRST. THIS IS MY HANDMAID IRESS.
WE ARE BOTH MOST EAGER TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSE MY PEOPLE CREATED.
THE QUESTION S GENERA.. CAN YOU ARRANGE OUR PASSAGE, OR MUST WE SEEK A HIGHER AUTHORITY?
Oh THERE S NO QUESTION YOU RE SPEAKING TO THE RIGHT MAN I M JUST DYING TO KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR ME IN RETURN

"NOT IN TEN MILLENNIA HAVE I FACED SUCH A MYSTERY...
"ORANGE EYES AND NATURAL PSYCHIC BARRIERS... JUST LIKE YOURS --"
-- BUT UNLIKE YOU, SHE IS NOT FROM ATLANTIS.
IN FACT, SHE ISN'T EVEN FROM EARTH.
YOU LIKE TO SEE ME BAFFLED, DON'T YOU?
MY UNCERTAINTY, MY TORMENT IS YOUR SOLE COMFORT.
ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN. ONCE MURQUADE ROUNDS UP THE REST OF YOUR COHORTS, ONE OF THEM IS SURE TO TALK, AND THEN YOUR STAY HERE WILL COME TO AN END.

AND YOU. WHY DID YOU NOT BRING THE CHILD'S MOTHER? SHE COULD HAVE PROVIDED MORE DETAILS.
MY SHAAIL IS GREAT, FATHER. ALLOW ME TO RETURN TO VASSA AND RETRIEVE THE MOTHER.
NO. I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME YOU WERE IN THE SAME SECTOR AS MURQUADE.
I ALSO DON'T WANT HIS SEARCH FOR THE ATLANTEAN'S COMRADES TO BE INTERRUPTED.
I HAVE AN AGENT IN THE AREA WITH A TRACKER TEAM...
YES, I KNOW.
VERY WELL. BUT STRESS TO HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN THAT I REQUIRE THE CHILD'S MOTHER ALIVE.
LITTLE GIRL I HOPE YOUR MOMMY'S SMARTER THAN I WAS.


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY *AGREE* TO THIS PLAN!
I MEAN, THERE'S *STILL* NO WORD FROM HER! WHAT IF OUR CLOAKING FIELD IS KEEPING HER FROM GETTING THROUGH TO US?

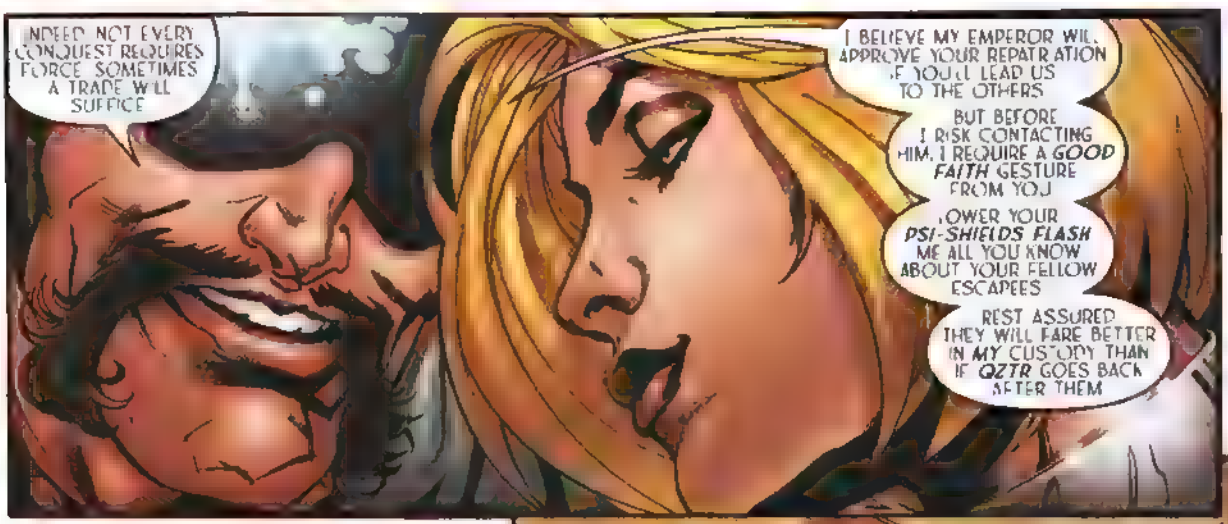

I'M PRETTY SURE THE *STEALTH SPHERE* ONLY BLOCKS MECHANICAL SENSORS
ONCE SHE FINDS OUT WHERE YOUR BABY IS, HER TELEPATHIC CALL SHOULD GET THROUGH JUST FINE
I *THINK*

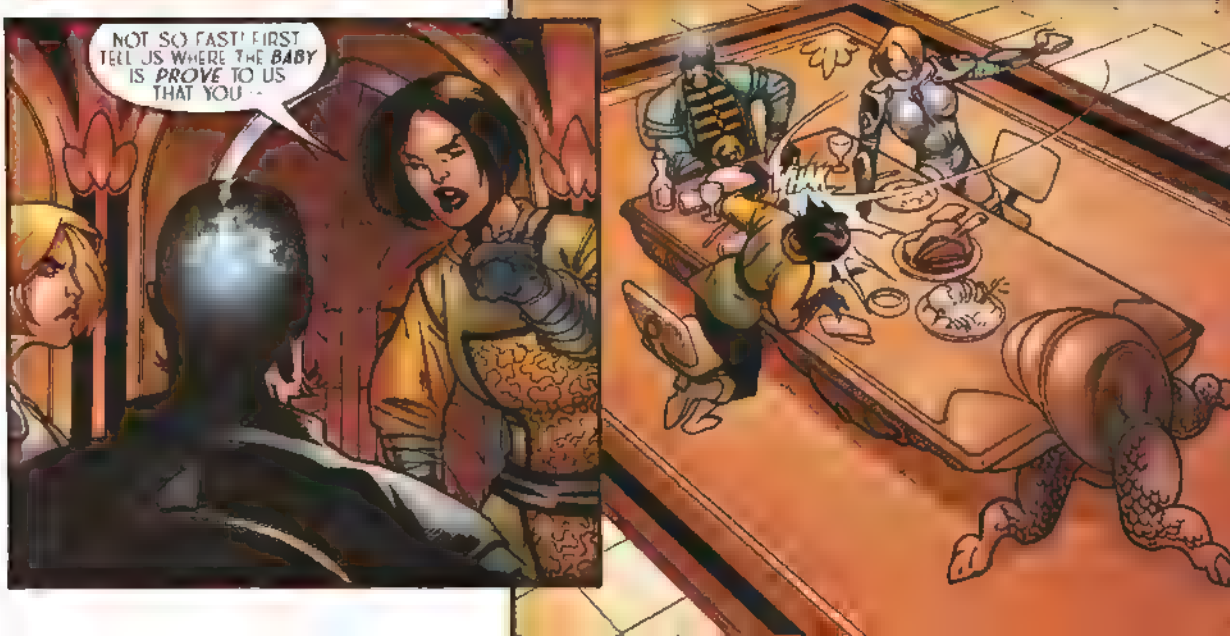

AND WHAT IF SHE JUST SOLD US OUT AND CUT HER *OWN* DEAL WITH THE NEGATION?
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY'D EXPECT FROM HER, WHICH IS WHY SHE'S THE BEST CHOICE TO *INFILTRATE* THEM

I KNOW IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT, *TRUSTING* EVINEA, BUT THIS IS THE *SMARTEST* THING WE COULD DO
BELIEVE ME, I'VE BEEN WORKING ON HER SINCE DAY ONE SHE'S *READY* FOR US TO SHOW SOME *FAITH* IN HER
MISTER KAINE, I KNOW I'D BE *DEAD* BY NOW IF NOT FOR YOU, BUT YOU'RE STAKING MY DAUGHTER'S *LIFE* ON YOUR ABILITY TO READ PEOPLE
NO
I'M STAKING *ALL* OUR LIVES ON IT
KAINE, A WORD
ALL RIGHT, SO YOU CAN READ PEOPLE WELL. EVINEA'S *NOT* A PERSON, SHE'S A 2½-YEAR OLD GODDESS WHOSE ONLY PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE FOR *HERSELF*
I THINK SHE'LL *VERY* LIKELY DOUBLE-CROSS US
WHY DO YOU THINK SHE'LL DO THAT?
YOU JUST BE READY WHEN *YOUR* TURN COMES

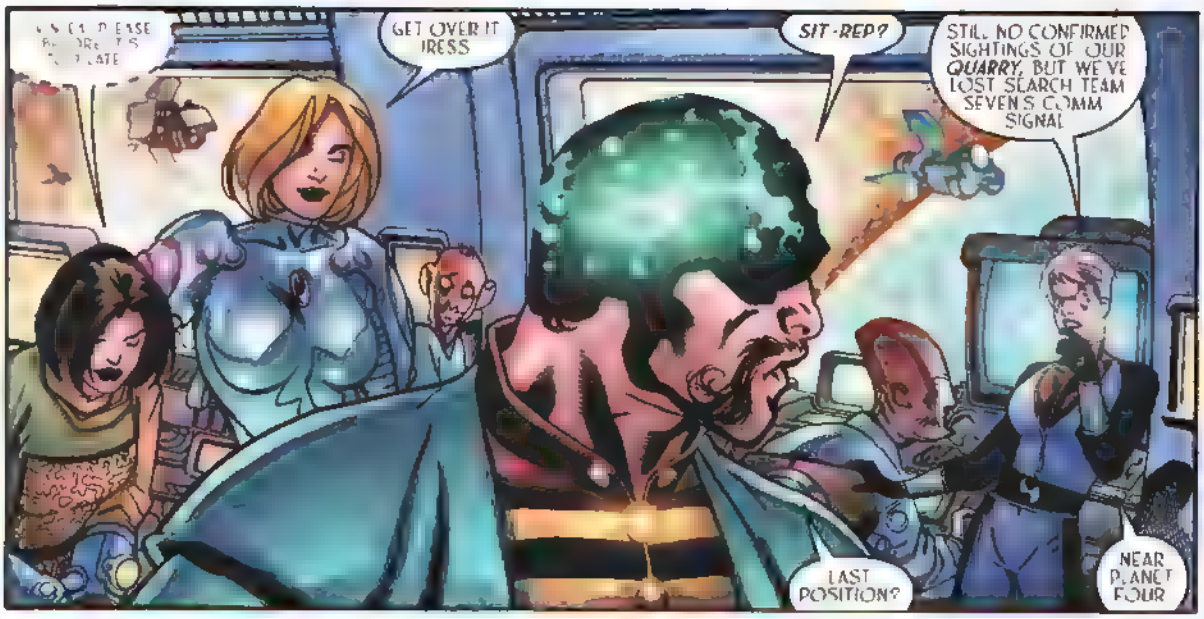
STOP! YOU'RE KILLING ME!
I MEAN IT. ONE MORE COURSE AND I SHALL SIMPLY DROP DEAD WITH DELIGHT!
YOUR PRAISE HONORS US, LADY EVNEA. WOULD THAT YOUR COMPANION WERE HALF AS ENTHUSIASTIC
I... I'M SORRY. I DON'T MEAN TO SEEM UNGRATEFUL. IT'S JUST
I CAN'T ENJOY MYSELF WHEN I KNOW THAT POOR BABY IS OUT THERE SOMEWHERE SUFFERING
YOU DIDN'T MENTION HAVING A CHILD
SHE REFERS TO ONE OF OUR FORMER COMPANIONS WHOSE INFANT DAUGHTER WAS STOLEN BY A NEGATION OPERATIVE
A CREATURE CALLING ITSELF LAWBRINGER QZTR
Ah, QZTR

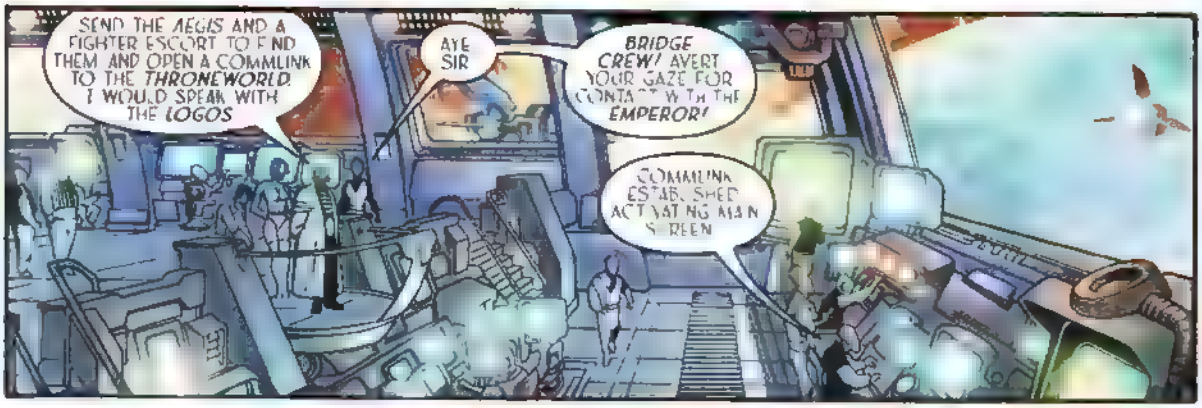
WELL, IF HE'S TAKEN AN INTEREST IN YOU, THEN WE'D BEST EXPEDITE YOUR RETURN HOME. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO SEE YOU END UP AS HIS NEXT PET PROJECT
A STOMACH-CHURNING SHAME
I HAVE, ABOARD THIS VESSEL, THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO OPEN A PORTAL TO YOUR UNIVERSE. IN FACT, WE'VE ALREADY LAUNCHED SEVERAL INCURSIONS FROM MY BATTLE GROUP
THEN YOU ARE PRECISELY THE MAN I HAD HOPED TO FIND WHEN WE DECIDED TO LEAVE THE OTHERS
I KNEW THAT REASON AND CIVILITY COULD BE FOUND IN THE NEGATION, IF ONE LOOKED IN THE RIGHT PLACE


INDEED. NOT EVERY CONQUEST REQUIRES FORCE. SOMETIMES A TRADE WILL SUFFICE
I BELIEVE MY EMPEROR WILL APPROVE YOUR REPATRIATION IF YOU'LL LEAD US TO THE OTHERS
BUT BEFORE I RISK CONTACTING HIM, I REQUIRE A GOOD FAITH GESTURE FROM YOU
LOWER YOUR PSI-SHIELDS. FLASH ME ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT YOUR FELLOW ESCAPEES
REST ASSURED THEY WILL FARE BETTER IN MY CUSTODY THAN IF QZTR GOES BACK AFTER THEM


NOT SO FAST! FIRST TELL US WHERE THE BABY IS. PROVE TO US THAT YOU

IGNORE HER. SHE IS ONLY HALF DESCENDED FROM MY PEOPLE AND LACKS OUR USUAL WISDOM AND PATIENCE
AS FOR YOUR ENTERING MY MIND, I DO ANTICIPATE SUCH FUTURE INTIMACY BETWEEN US, MY GENERAL
BUT REMEMBER, I CAME HERE WILLINGLY. LET'S NOT RUSH A FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP
DAMN YOU, EVINLEA, THIS WASN'T THE PLAN
PLAN ?
KAINE AND THE OTHERS BELIEVE I SURRENDERED TO YOU AS A RUSE TO FIND OUT WHERE THE LAW-BRINGER TOOK THE CHILD
AND ?
I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE MEWLING LITTLE BRAT. I'M HERE TO STRIKE WHATEVER BARGAIN WILL RETURN ME HOME TO FAIR ELYSIA
NO!
YES. WE CAN COME TO TERMS
SWEET!


GET OVER IT IRESS
SIT-REP?
STILL NO CONFIRMED SIGHTINGS OF OUR QUARRY, BUT WE'VE LOST SEARCH TEAM SEVEN'S COMM SIGNAL
LAST POSITION?
NEAR PLANET FOUR


SEND THE AEGIS AND A FIGHTER ESCORT TO FIND THEM AND OPEN A COMMLINK TO THE THRONEWORLD. I WOULD SPEAK WITH THE LOGOS
AYE SIR
BRIDGE CREW! AVERT YOUR GAZE FOR CONTACT WITH THE EMPEROR!
COMMLINK ESTABLISHED ACTIVATING MAIN SCREEN

FORGIVE THE INTRUSION, LORD BUT I BELIEVE I HAVE SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO YOU.
MURQUADE! HAVE YOU FOUND THEM YE--
WELL, WELL.
PRISONER EVINLEA?

YES LORD SHE TURNED HERSELF IN SHE'LL LEAD US TO THE OTHER ESCAPEES IN EXCHANGE FOR PASSAGE BACK TO HER UNIVERSE
AS FOR OUR PRIME OBJECTIVE WE HAVE SOME LEADS BUT NOTHING CONCRETE
CONTINUE THE SEARCH. RIGHT NOW, I AM MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING THE MOTHER OF THIS CHILD. SHE IS AMONG EVINLEA'S FORMER COMRADES.
SHE'S AS GOOD AS YOURS LORD BUT
HOW COULD SHE POSSIBLY MERIT YOUR ATTENTION?
KAINE! THE CHILD IS ON THE NEGATION THRONE WORLD!
DRAKE WE'RE ON THE BRIDGE OF THE FLAGSHIP! HURRY!
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU NOW GOOD LUCK
LUCK'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH IT

GENERAL! YOUR INFORMANT JUST TRANSMITTED A TELEPATHIC CALL.
YES, LORD I HEARD IT, TOO
TACTICAL! SENSOR-FLASH EVERYTHING WITHIN FIVE MEGA-KLIKS. THEY'LL BE IN STEALTH MODE, BUT MAYBE WE CAN FLUSH THEM OUT
AYE SIR!
CONTACT ME WHEN YOU HAVE THEM IN CUSTODY.
OF COURSE, LORD. IF YOU'LL PLEASE PARDON ME
EEEE EEEE EEEE
THEY'VE FOUND US!
WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
NEGATIVE, WESTIN. HOLD POSITION. IF WHAT DRAKE TOLD ME IS TRUE, HE'LL BE BACK HERE WITH EVINEA AND IRESS IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES.
WHAT EXACTLY DID HE SAY?
HE TOLD ME WHAT HIS SIGIL DOES.

IT TURNS OUT THOSE RED AND YELLOW TATTOOS JUST MAKE YOU *MORE* OF WHAT YOU ALREADY *ARE*
JAVI WAS A *DOCTOR* HIS SIGIL LET HIM *HEAL* THOSE HE TOUCHED
WESTIN WAS A CROOK *HIS* SIGIL LETS HIM OPERATE ANY TECHNOLOGY THE BETTER TO *STEAL* IT
AS FOR *DRAKE*
DRAKE WAS A *PIRATE* IN MY OWN HOME SYSTEM EVEN BEFORE HE GOT HIS SIGIL AND PIRACY'S ALL ABOUT *ACQUISITION*
HE CLAIMS *HIS* SIGIL GIVES HIM *ANY* ABILITY HE *NEEDS* TO TAKE WHATEVER HE *WANTS*
THINK ABOUT T
SO LONG AS HE HAS A SPECIFIC TARGET AND HE KNOWS ITS *LOCATION*, NOTHING CAN KEEP HIM FROM *TAKING* T
HANDY TALENT FOR A RAID OR AN *EXTRACTION*

SIR A SMALL TORPEDO SIZED OBJECT INCOMING IT'S MADE SEVERAL COURSE CORRECTIONS
BUT IT'S NOT PUTTING OUT ANY THRUSTER SIGNATURE
YOU'RE IN TROUBLE NOW
GENERAL! EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION FROM THE AEGIS!
NOW!
GENERAL MURQUADE! WE'VE BEEN BOARDED! SITUATION DETERIORATING!
SEND REINFORCEMENTS! -SAZZ-
DON'T BOTHER, GENERAL! -SAZZ- WE'LL COME TO YOU!

COLONEL! REGROUP OUR ASSETS!
SOUND THE RED ALERT... WE'VE MADE CONTACT W TH THE AUSTRALIANS!
THE WHO ?
DRAKE? ARE YOU IN YET?
ALMOST JUST CLEARING A PATH
WHAT IN THE ?
SOMETHING WRONG?
NOT SURE

DO NOT INSULT ME BY FEIGNING IGNORANCE! THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE! YOU MUST HAVE PLANNED THIS ALL ALONG WITH YOUR PARTNERS OUT THERE!
WELL, I DOUBT THIS WILL KILL YOU, BUT YOU'LL BE FAR FROM UNSCATHED WHEN THEY FIND YOU.
DO WHAT YOU MUST BUT SPARE HESS. SHE KNEW NOTHING OF MY TRUE PLAN. AND
AND SHE IS MY LAST PRECIOUS LINK TO MY PEOPLE.
YOU DON'T SAY.
FWOOM
AARGH!
CRUEL, BUT PREDICTABLE.

MURDERER!
FWOOM
YOU KNEW HE'D DO THAT
JUST BE THANKFUL YOU FINALLY MADE YOURSELF USEFUL
REMEMBER US, GENERAL? WE'RE STRONGER NOW! YOU HAVE NO IDEA THE THINGS WE'VE LEARNED TO DO!
TIME TO PAY FOR TAKING GAMMID FROM US! FOR HUNTING US LIKE DOGS!

AND IF YOU EXPECT THAT *TOY* TO DEFEND YOU, THEN YOU'RE IN FOR A *RUDE SURPRISE!*

THIS?

THIS ISN'T TO PROTEC *ME* FROM YOU

PAFF

IT'S TO PROTECT *MY* SHIP FROM *ME!*

WAIT, CAN YOU SEE THIS?

ANY MORE RUDE SURPRISES BEFORE I KILL YOU ALL?!
DRAKE?! CAN YOU READ ME? WHO THE HELL ARE THESE GUYS?
I DON'T KNOW, KAINE. I DON'T KNOW.

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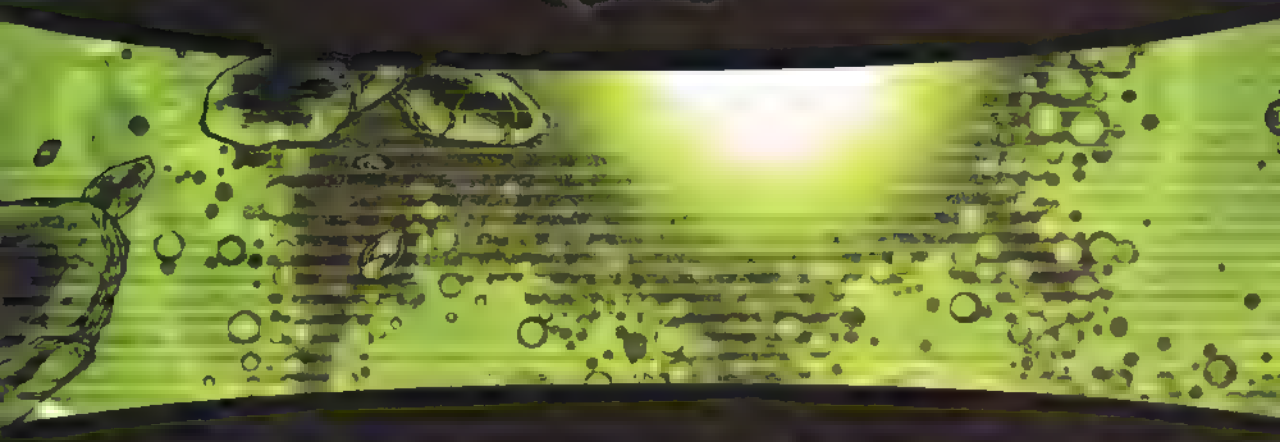
LAURA VILLARI

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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NEGATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Hi, there!

Once again, you managed to amaze me. No, forget amaze; stun. I read almost everything you publish, and it never fails: each of your titles is gripping and special in its own way. I even make fun of myself in front of my friends, claiming, "My latest read is the best ever." They tend to wonder how they can all be "the best ever." Well, it shows that they don't read your books.

I was taken by every aspect of NEGATION #8. The magnificent artwork (exceptional even by your standards) shows not only neat space scenes, but also realistic facial expressions, making the whole set-up look real. The story is amazing. Each group of issues brings us to another interesting place and reveals more interesting (and creepy!) facts about the Negation Universe. But, what I find most amazing in NEGATION is the atmosphere. When I open the book I find myself swapped into that foreign universe. I can smell the air, taste the fear of the heroes, feel the alienness and mystery of the place... I swear, I can hear the sound effects and the creepy space-music that surrounds the panels, feel the movement of the characters and hear them speak.

All this was brought to outstanding perfection in NEGATION #8. QZTR rocks! I can hear his crackling, whispering voice, feel the dread that surrounds him... I'm sure happy I'm not the one to confront him. I can't wait to see how they get out of this one and what's going on with the baby (and whether his mother's orange eyes mean that she is more then what she seems...)

Keep up to great work, and never lose the magic that you're crafting, the magic that is the universe of NEGATION. I can't wait for the LAWBRINGER mini!

You biggest fan,
Oron "Silvereye" Shechner
Rishon-Le-Zion, Israel

Your wait is over, Oron! As you read this, the NEGATION: LAWBRINGER One-Shot should be at a comic shop near you. Thanks for your consistent and widespread support of CrossGen!

Gina,

I've been enjoying all your books since they first came out. SOJOURN, RUSE, and MERIDIAN are in my top five books and NEGATION is also right up there.

This letter is in response to Robert Taylor's letter in NEGATION #9. I'm a highly decorated Vietnam veteran. I hated all four years I was in the military, however it was the best education I ever received, and I would do it again (and still hate it if I had it to do over again). Obregon Kaine fits the lifelong military man to "T." They aren't always nice people, but then, nice people lose wars. Patton, MacArthur, and Rommel all come to mind. They did what they had to do to win and understood the sacrifices involved to do it. Career soldiers aren't nice people but if they were they would be dead and history books wouldn't make them heroes.

I was afraid when this book came out you wouldn't have the guts to have a character like Kaine. I was dead wrong. Tony Bedard, you nailed it. If Robert Taylor's kind of soldier had fought in WWII we would all be speaking German.

now. Hooray for Tony Bedard and his honest representation of a fighting man.

James Berg
Kirkwood, MO

We're glad Kaine's characterization rings true for you, James, but in Robert's defense, I didn't read his comments as a criticism of soldiers, per se, just a criticism of Kaine's leadership ability. I'm sure he meant no disrespect.

Hey, Machinations,

I just wanted to guess: is Charon's captive Gammid of CRUX? It never occurred to me before this to think so, but then it just hit me.

In any case, this is the best title that I've read in years. Keep up the good work.

Victor A.
Plan9b@aol.com

Victor my friend, you gotta duck next time something's gonna hit you! We can't afford to lose you, buddy! Seriously though, you know by now that you were absolutely right – Gammid it is. And, he's around to stay. It looks like CRUX's loss is NEGATION's gain, and with things going the way they've been, that's good news for our band of fugitives. Thanks for the kind words about the book!

Via snail mail:
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Or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

I get a chance to read a considerable number of letters around here. I never think of it as a chore because it's a part of my job that I really love. No matter what sentiments a letter contains, and no matter how well or poorly those sentiments are expressed, I feel as if the act of reading the thoughts of someone out there who has taken the time and effort to send them gives me a particular connection to each person who writes. A lot of these missives are memorable for one reason or another, but every now and then one arrives that is worthy of special note. Just such a one crossed my desk early last week. It made me very proud...and at the same time very humble. Here it is. You'll see what I mean.

To Everyone at CrossGen Comics,

I want to thank you for all your great comics. I've been a collector of comics for over 20 years and I'm glad to say that you guys and gals are a breath of fresh air to the industry. This past year has been tough for our whole country since 9/11/01. There's not much for me to do to get my mind off the event. You see, I am a Port Authority Police officer. Every day at work I'm reminded of what happened. For the past few months I have mainly worked at the WTC site. My job requires me to work 14 hours per day all the time. As you can see, my co-workers and myself don't have much of a life now, we do what we can to stay sane. One of my ways to get away is to read your comics. I love SIGIL, SOJOURN, CRUX, SCION, NEGATION, etc. Your comics help me to escape reality for a while. I don't want to take up much of your time, so thanks again. Keep up all the great work.

PS. I am sending you a Port Authority Police patch. If there is anything else I can get you guys – T-shirts, hats, etc. – let me know. Please do not print my name or address

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, INC.
RECOMMENDED GOOD READ
by CrossGen Senior Writer Ron Marz

Recommended Reads

every penny, even when it goes back to regular price.

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Negation
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

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One such human named **Obregon Kaine** led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, **Komptin**. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

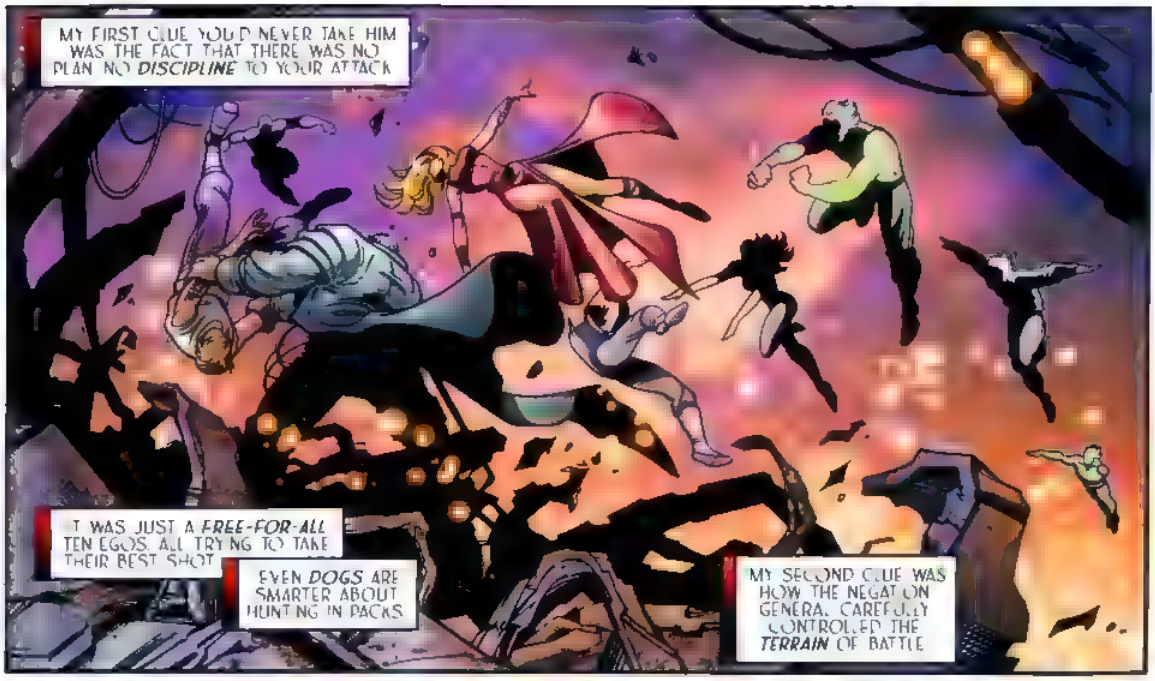
In order to learn where baby **Mami** is held captive, Kaine and company enacted a desperate plan to get the information from the Negation's great military hero, General **Murquade**. No sooner had Evinlea tricked Murquade into revealing the child's location than Murquade's ship came under attack from a new foe to the Negation — an astonishingly powerful group of beings with glowing green markings who have their own axe to grind with the Negation's great conqueror. But even as they rip into Murquade's command ship, the *Clarion*, the newcomers find that the General is more powerful than any one of them...

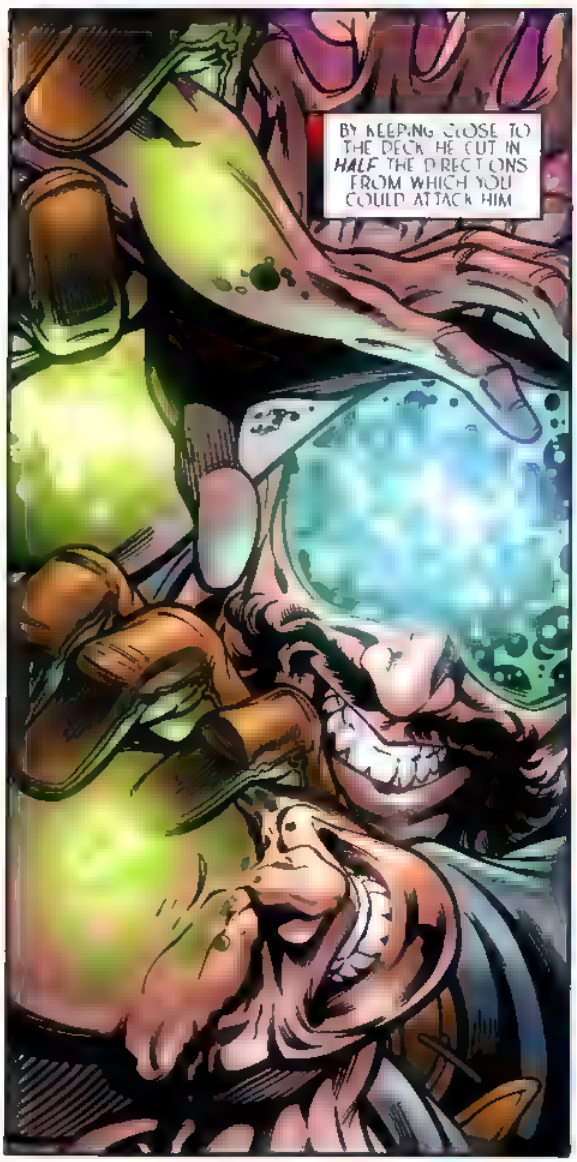
CGE

Negation® Vol. 1, Issue 12 DECEMBER 2002 FIRST PRINTING Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. [illegible] publication: 4021 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677 **Negation®**, **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, **CrossGeneration Comics®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered [illegible] of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Negation®** [illegible] images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. [illegible] incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or [illegible] coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of [illegible] reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED [illegible]

I COULD SEE THAT YOU HAD HIM OUTNUMBERED - A *DOZEN* OF YOU CONVERGING ON HIM AT THE SAME TIME MORE ON THE WAY
AND RIGHT AWAY I WAS CLEAR YOU WERE GOING TO *LOSE*

DRAKE! CAN YOU STILL HEAR ME?!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
NO IDEA. THEY JUST SWOOPED IN OUT OF NOWHERE
WHERE'S EVINLEA AND IRESS?
ON THE COMMAND SHIP'S BRIDGE JUST BEFORE IT EXPLODED. IF THEY DIDN'T GET OUT IN TIME
WE'LL HAVE TO HOPE FOR THE BEST
RIGHT NOW I NEED YOU TO FIND WHOEVER'S LEADING THESE NEW PEOPLE AND BRING THEM TO ME!


MY FIRST CLUE YOU'D NEVER TAKE HIM WAS THE FACT THAT THERE WAS NO PLAN NO *DISCIPLINE* TO YOUR ATTACK
IT WAS JUST A *FREE-FOR-ALL* TEN EGOS ALL TRYING TO TAKE THEIR BEST SHOT
EVEN *DOGS* ARE SMARTER ABOUT HUNTING IN PACKS
MY SECOND CLUE WAS HOW THE NEGATION GENERAL CAREFULLY CONTROLLED THE *TERRAIN* OF BATTLE


BY KEEPING CLOSE TO THE DECK HE CUT IN *HALF* THE DIRECTIONS FROM WHICH YOU COULD ATTACK HIM

YOUR PEOPLE FOUGHT LIKE CIVILIANS *HE* FOUGHT LIKE MY HAND TO HAND INSTRUCTOR FROM BOOT CAMP GUNNY BLANCHARD

I CAN STILL SEE GUNNY LAUGHING AS HE'D WHOOP TEN RECRUITS AT A TIME
HE ALWAYS SAID TEN ENEMIES OR TEN THOUSAND IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE JUST WORRY ABOUT THE ONE YOU'RE KILLING NOW

ANYHOW MY POINT IS THAT YOU NEED A PLAN OF ATTACK, WHICH IS WHY I ASKED DRAKE TO BRING YOU HERE

AND I'M GLAD HE MANAGED TO DO IT BEFORE YOU GOT YOURSELF KILLED TAKING ON THAT GENERAL

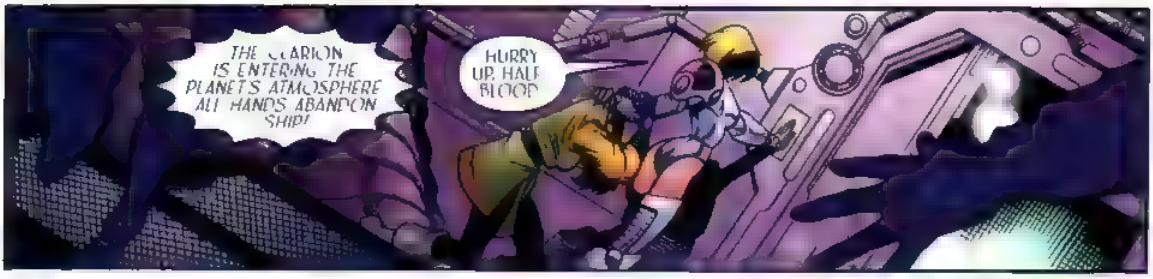
SEE I THINK WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE, AND I DON'T WANT YOU THROWING YOUR LIVES AWAY

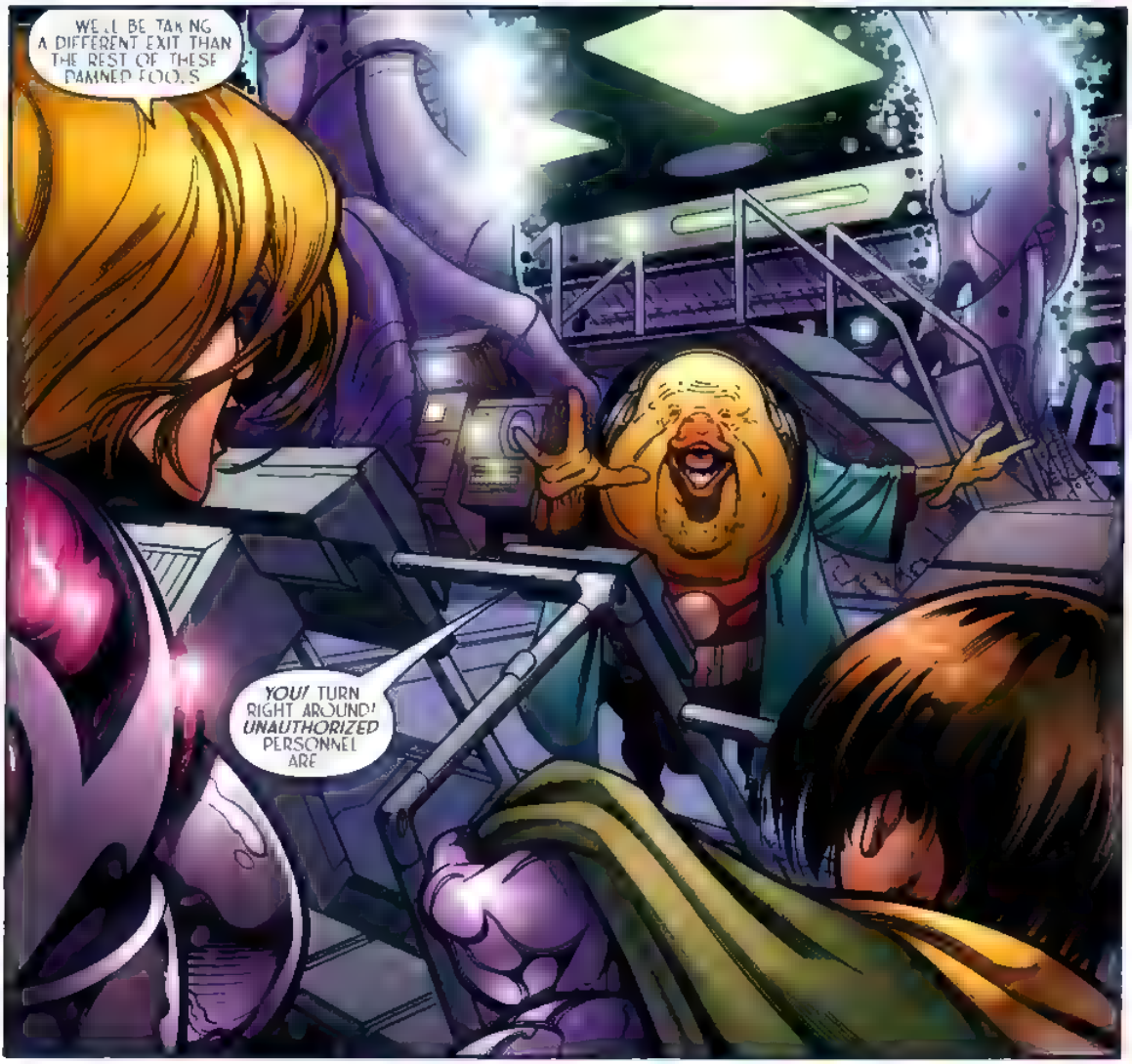
SAMAKAR WE CAN GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER LATER · MY PEOPLE ARE DYING OUT THERE! IF YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION, THEN MAKE IT
FINE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE DRAKE WITH YOU WE STILL HAVE TWO PEOPLE UNACCOUNTED FOR ABOARD THAT SHIP OKAY WITH YOU DRAKE?
LET'S GET ON WITH IT
LISTEN UP MISS SAMAKAR HERE'S HOW WE BEAT THAT HALF HEADED HUMP
RIGHT NOW, THE GENERAL'S TAKEN A POSITION THAT FORCES YOU TO HIT HIM ONE AT A TIME
AND MAYBE YOU CAN FLY THROUGH SPACE AND RIP STEEL LIKE PAPER BUT NONE OF YOU CAN TAKE HIM ONE ON ONE
YOU COULD TRY TO WEAR HIM DOWN BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME HE'LL NEVER GET TIRED

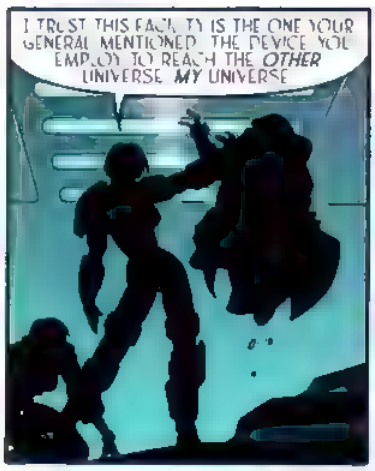
SO YOU'RE GOING TO *REGROUP* YOUR PEOPLE AND LEAD ANOTHER CHARGE
AND YOU HIT THE *HULL* INSTEAD *PUSHING* THE SHIP BACK TOWARDS THE PLANET JUST AS *FAST* AS YOU CAN MANAGE IT
I UNDERSTAND WE'LL *SEPARATE* HIM FROM HIS DEFENSIVE NOTCH, BUT *THEN* WHAT? WILL HE NOT SIMPLY MOVE *WITH* THE SHIP ONCE HE NOTICES?
AND WHAT OF YOUR MAN, *DRAKE*? WHAT PART DOES *HE* PLAY?
WHILE YOU DO YOUR THING DRAKE WILL FLY AT THE SHIP FROM THE *OPPOSITE* DIRECTION AND COME UP *THROUGH* IT

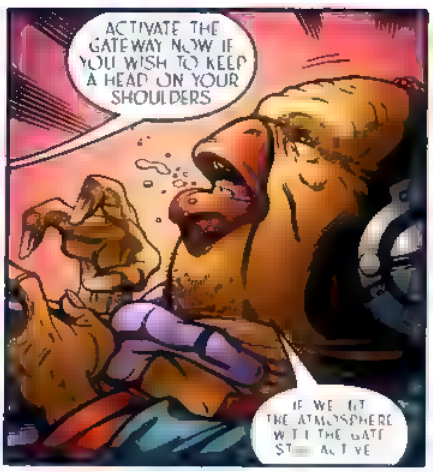
YOU'RE GONNA COME IN *HOT*, FANGS OUT, LIKE YOU REALLY *MEAN* IT
AT THE LAST SECOND HALF OF YOU JINK *LEFT*, THE REST JINK *RIGHT*
?
SETTING UP GENERAL HALF-A-YEAR
FOR A *WORLD* OF HURT

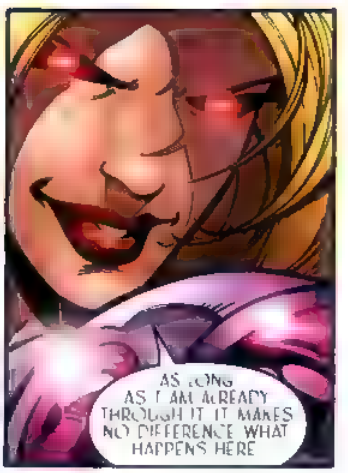
KROOM
CENTRAL COM! THIS IS BATTLE GROUP CLARION! GENERAL MURQUADE IS DEAD! REPEAT THE GENERAL HAS FALLEN!
CALM DOWN, COLONEL. YOU'RE IN COMMAND NOW
YES SIR. GENERAL KRYZZOR I'LL REGROUP THE ESCORTS FOR A COUNTERSTRIKE
NO. YOU'LL DEPLOY A JUMP GATE AND RETREAT TO THE NEAREST SECTOR COM
BUT SIR
BUT NOTHING MURQUADE HAS ALREADY PAID THE PRICE FOR UNDERESTIMATING THE ENEMY. CUT YOUR LOSSES, COLONEL
WE'LL FIGURE OUT WHAT WENT WRONG WHEN I
ATTENTION ALL VESSELS. DEPLOY JUMP GATE AND INITIATE RETREAT PROTOCOL!

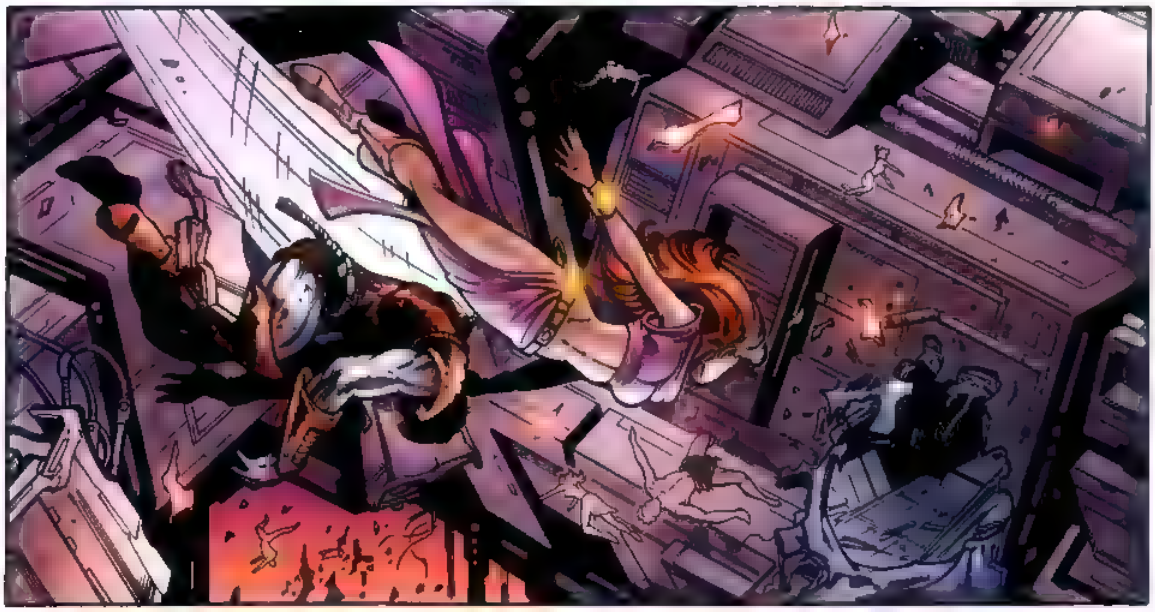

THE SCARRON IS ENTERING THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE ALL HANDS ABANDON SHIP!
HURRY UP, HALF BLOOD


WE'LL BE TAKING A DIFFERENT EXIT THAN THE REST OF THESE DAMNED FOOLS
YOU! TURN RIGHT AROUND! UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ARE


I TRUST THIS FACILITY IS THE ONE YOUR GENERAL MENTIONED. THE DEVICE YOU EMPLOY TO REACH THE OTHER UNIVERSE. MY UNIVERSE


ACTIVATE THE GATEWAY NOW IF YOU WISH TO KEEP A HEAD ON YOUR SHOULDERS
IF WE LET THE ATMOSPHERE WITH THE GATE ST[illegible] ACTIVE


AS LONG AS I AM ALREADY THROUGH IT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT HAPPENS HERE

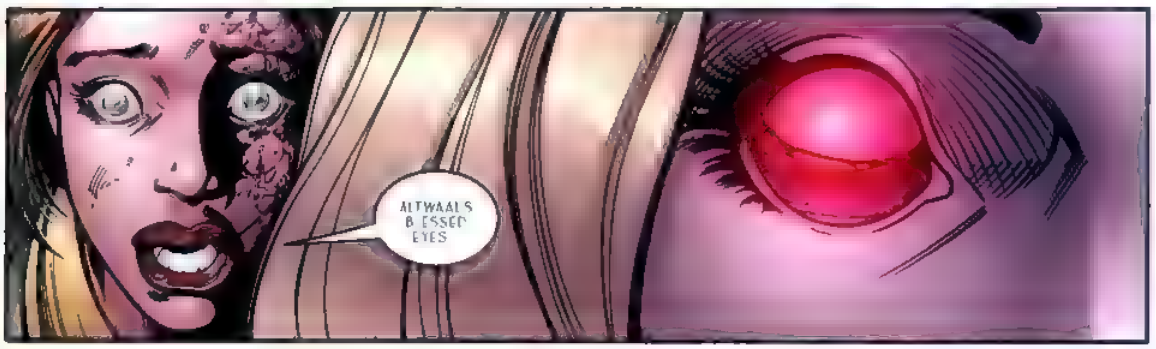


IT *WORKED*, DRAKE WE KILLED THE BEAST BUT HE TOOK A DOZEN OF MY PEOPLE WITH HIM

WE MUST HURRY NOW THE SHIP IS FALLING, AND YOUR LEADER SAID YOU HAD TO RETRIEVE A PAIR OF *YOUR* PEOPLE ON BOARD

MY *LEADER*, huh ? GOTTA HAVE A *TALK* WHEN THIS IS OVER

FWASH
THERE *YOUR* UNIVERSE


ALTWAALS BLESSED EYES

WHICH PLANET IS THAT?
THE NATIVES CALL IT EARTH COORDINATES WERE PRE SET SINCE IT'S WHERE WE HAVE MADE THE MOST INCURSIONS
EARTH WILL DO WHEN I AM BACK AND MY FULL POWER IS RESTORED I SHALL BE FREE TO TRAVEL WHEREVER I WILL
WAIT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS?
WHAT ABOUT THEM?
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM ALL AND THERE'S STILL THE BABY TO RESCUE
YES EVENTUALLY I KNOW YOU DON'T FORGET ABOUT MEMI
AFTER ALL I'VE GONE THROUGH TO RESCUE YOU!
ALL HANDS ABANDON SHIP! IMPACT WITH PLANET IN TWENTY MINUTES!

I DID MY PART! I DISCOVERED THE CHILD'S LOCATION AND REPORTED IT TO YOU AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK!
NOW THAT JAVI IS DEAD, I CAN ACCESS ONLY A FRACTION OF MY POWER. I'M NOT OF MUCH FURTHER USE TO ANY OF YOU!
FARE THEE WELL WITH THE RESCUE AND MAY YOU ALL ONE DAY RETURN HOME AS I SHALL
YOU UNBELIEVABLY SELFISH
-COW!
SFX: THOOM
LET'S ALL GET OFF THIS STINKING SHIP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

SIR I JUST RE-LINKED WITH THE COMMWEB WE HAVE AN UPDATE CONCERNING THE FUGITIVES.
IT SAYS THAT PRISONERS EVINLEA AND PRESS RETURNED THEMSELVES TO CUSTODY AND WERE TURNED OVER TO BATTLE GROUP CLARION
GENERAL MURQUADE'S TASK FORCE
MAYBE KAINE COULDN'T BEND THEM TO HIS WILL. THEY ARE IMMORTALS AFTER ALL
OR MAYBE
HAIL THE CLARION
ONE MOMENT
SIR! BATTLE GROUP CLARION IS RETREATING FROM THE RAMPHO SYSTEM!
THEY'RE REPORTING A LOSS OF TWO ESCORTS AND THE COMMAND SHIP AND THE GENERAL HIMSELF IS DEAD!
WARP TO RAMPHO IMMEDIATELY!
ENERAL KRYZZOR'S ORDERS WERE
LET HIM PULL OUT HIS SHIPS WE WORK FOR THE JAWBRINGER NOW AND I SAY WE GO IN
PRISONER KAINE IS BEHIND THIS SOMEHOW I KNOW TI SENDING THOSE TWO IN TO SURRENDER S JUST THE SORT OF DEVIOUS TRICK HE'S GOOD AT

DRAKE! COME IN!
HERE, KAINE WHAT IS TO
ASA SAMAKAR IF HER PEOPLE CAN KEEP THE BIG SHIP FROM FALLING INTO THE PLANET
WE CAN CERTAINLY TRY BUT WHY?
BECAUSE IT'S THE CENTER PIECE OF AN ATTACK PLAN WE'VE JUST PUT TOGETHER SO IF YOU WANT TO HURT THE NEGATON EVEN MORE
ROUND UP YOUR PEOPLE, AND I'LL HAVE THE BRAIN TRUST HERE EXPLAIN FLUXOR ?

CAPTAIN FLUXOR IF YOU PLEASE I RAN FROM NEGATRON PATROLS FOR TWENTY-EIGHT SEASONS I KNOW THEIR METHODS
RIGHT NOW THEY'VE ACTIVATED A JUMP GATE AND THEY ARE FILING THROUGH WITH A CRUISER OR DESTROYER COVERING THEIR REAR
THE GATE CAN BE SET FOR VARIOUS DEST NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE IMPERIUM TEN MINUTES AFTER THE LAST SHIP PASSES THROUGH THE GATE DE ACTIVATES
THE PLAN IS WE WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE GONE RESET THE ARRIVAL CODE FOR THE THRONEWORLD
AND WE HURL THE COMMAND SHIP THROUGH WITH A COMET TAIL OF WRECKAGE IN ITS WAKE INCLUDING US
WE'LL HIDE AMONG THE DEBRIS AND BREAK AWAY ONCE THE PLANETARY DEFENSES COMMIT TO THE BIG SHIP ITSELF

OKAY. A MILLION TONS OF RUNAWAY STARSHIP MIGHT MAKE FOR A NICE DIVERSION, BUT HOW WILL WE REPROGRAM THE JUMP GATE?
WESTIN ?
YEAH YEAH I'M WORKING ON IT
DON'T KNOW HOW BUT HIS SIGIL LETS HIM WORK ANY TECHNOLOGY WE'VE FOUND WITH LUCK, THE SHIP'S COMPUTER WILL GIVE UP THE CODES
LOOK, I HELPED YOU RAISE THIS SHIP BECAUSE YOU HELPED US EARLIER BUT WHY WOULD I LEAD MY PEOPLE RIGHT INTO THE TEETH OF MY ENEMY?
YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S NOT YOUR FIGHT WE'RE DOING THIS TO SAVE A CHILD HELD BY THE EMPEROR
WHY WERE YOU FIGHTING THE NEGATION?
THEY'VE HUNTED US EVER SINCE WE CAME HERE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE, FROM A PLANET CALLED EARTH
THE TRANSITION TO THIS PLACE GAVE US THE POWER YOU NOW SEE. IT ALSO DROVE US TEMPORARILY INSANE
ANOTHER WHO CROSSED OVER WITH US... ONE WHO ALREADY POSSESSED GREAT POWER AND WISDOM... HELPED QUELL OUR MADNESS AND HARNESS OUR NEW POWER
HIS NAME IS GAMMID WE OWE HIM EVERYTHING
THIS GAMMID, DID HE HAVE WHITE HAIR? AND AN ORANGE MARK
ON HIS CHEST! YES! HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
HE IS HELD CAPTIVE ON THE THRONEWORLD ALONGSIDE THE CHILD
THEN PERHAPS OUR GOALS DO COINCIDE
GOD KNOWS WE NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET
WESTIN FLUXOR SET IT UP! I'M GONNA GRAB SOME SHUTEYE WAKE ME UP WHEN WE'RE READY TO HIT THE GATE

HEY! WAKE UP!
YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
HURRY WE'RE COMING UP ON THE GATE
WESTIN MANAGED TO GET THE CODES?
IN LESS THAN TEN MINUTES HE FOUND A MAP OF THE THRONEWORLD, TOO!
THEN OUR NEW FRIENDS ROUNDED UP THE WRECKED SHIPS AND THREW THE WHOLE MESS AT THE JUMP-GATE
ABOUT TIME I DREAMED UP A FEW THINGS GOING OUR WAY
AH RIGHT THANKS CORRIN
GOOD, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE KAINE WE'VE JUST PASSED THROUGH THE GATE THRONEWORLD DEAD AHEAD
ALREADY?!
IT'S OKAY LOCA PERIMETER FORCES ARE CONVERGING ON THE BIG SHIP NO ONE'S NOTICED US
LET'S GIVE SAMAKAR'S PEOPLE TIME TO MAKE THE FRONTAL ASSAULT CONVINCING
HARD TO STARBOARD THEN ALL STOP
DONE AND DONE
HANG ON SOMETHING JUST CAME THROUGH THE GATE BEHIND US

GODS BELOW!
THOOM!
NO NO NO
KAINE! BACK HERE!
ZA DA-
MOVE IT!
GET IN QUICK!
BUT-

THE POD'S SET FOR THE PALACE! SAVE MY BABY GIRL!
THERE'S ROOM FOR BOTH OF US IN
ZAIDA!
THAT'S KOMPTIN'S SHIP ?!
BUT HOW DID HE ?

THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING
YOU'RE RIGHT
THIS ISN'T HAPPENING BUT BELIEVE ME IT WILL
THIS IS A DREAM OBREGON RAINE A DREAM AND A WARNING YOUR PLAN IS FLAWED
KOMPTIN SHOWS UP AFTER THE OTHERS RETREAT
YES
TOO MUCH DEPENDS ON YOUR SUCCESS YOU HAVE ONLY SECONDS TO DECIDE ON A NEW COURSE OF ACTION
WAKE UP

HEY! WAKE UP!
YOU'RE HAVING A NIGHTMARE!
TELL WESTIN TO CHECK OUR TAIL! WE'RE GONNA HAVE COMPANY!

Storytellers

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

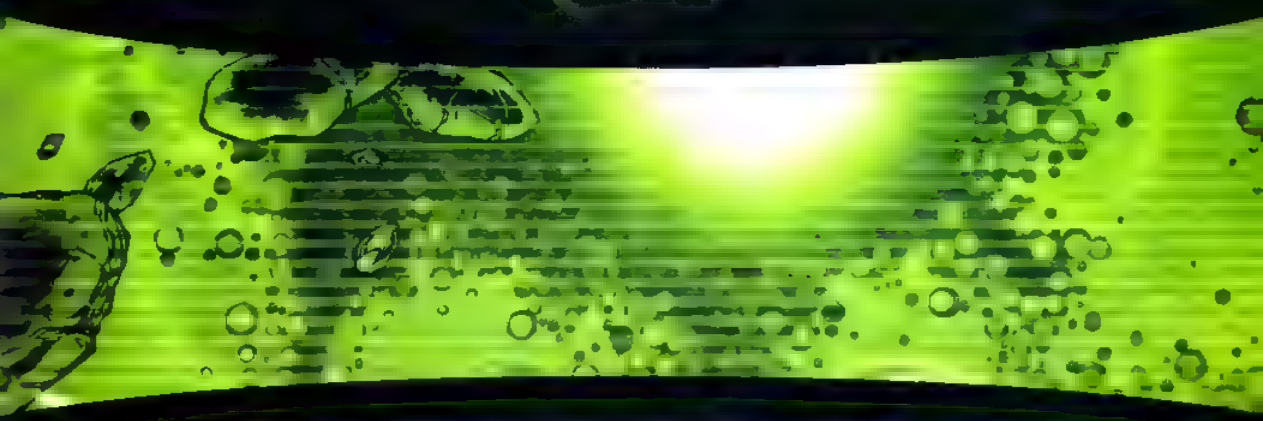
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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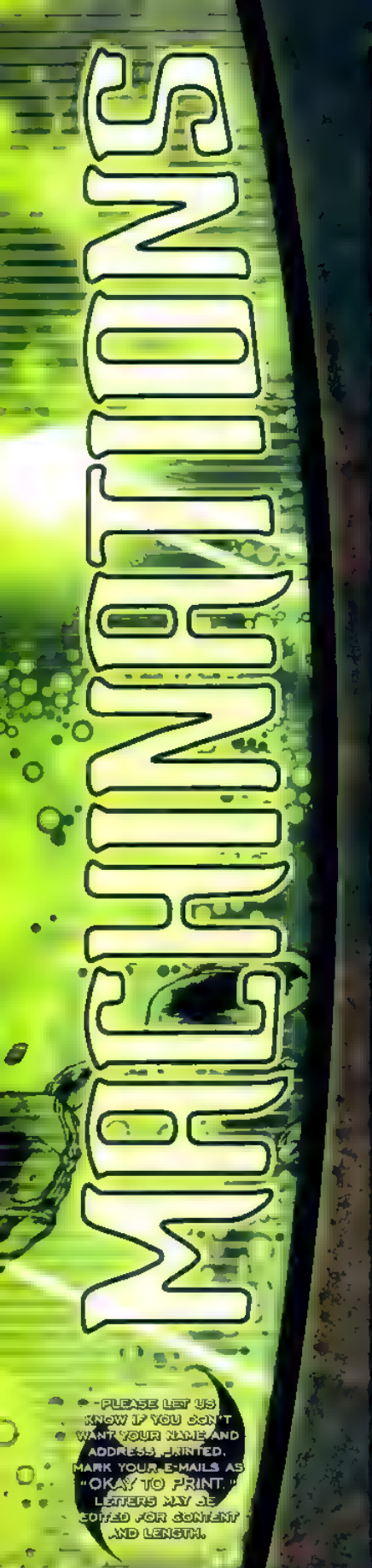
Tony [illegible] Paul Palmer Dave Meikis James Rocheleau

Negation

Issue #13
On Sale
December 11

ASSAULT on the Throneworld!


MACHINATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Machinations:

Wow! That about sums up the past couple issues in a one-word way. I was kinda sorry to see a couple of the other escapees go in issue #8, though — especially Aglareb of Grinbor, as SOJOURN is another favorite of mine. But, something had been bugging me recently about NEGATION: I hadn't seen any of the "orange-eyed" beings in these pages. Then, thanks to FORGE #1 and the NEGATION PREQUEL, I thought I noticed Zaida and/or her baby with orange-colored eyes. But, I thought I was wrong when I realized that there were so many Sigil-Bearers — who would she mentor? And, she seemed to be sticking closer to Kaine than anyone else and he doesn't have a sigil (yet).

But, with issue #9 it is confirmed that both Zaida and Memi have 'em...and we learn that Charon's guest is none other than Gammid from CRUX! (Yes!) He might be the salvation Kaine and company need. (Provided he lives that long.) Oh...speaking of living, it's my guess that Javi is gonna be all right next issue. His sigil allows him to heal, and I'm guessing his will heal him right back to health and vitality. (I'm hoping.)

Tony, Paul, Dave, James, and Troy: you are all doing a fantastic job! NEGATION is one of my favorites in the CrossGen Universe. (Of course, it's getting harder and harder to choose a favorite.) Well, once again I have proved myself long-winded. I must go. Thanks, one and all.

Dean Siemsen
Sunbury, PA

Dean, all I can tell you is that Zaida and Memi are a couple of unusual individuals even for our universe, though just how unusual remains to be seen. You'll also want to stay tuned for further developments on the Javi front; there are surprises there, too.

Hi, NEGATION folks!

I can't believe how good it is... Gammid in NEGATION! When at first you promised that the stories will be related to each other in a "subtle" way, I thought it was just talk. I mean, all the other companies, when they want to tie things up, they just do the thing that comic book collectors dread most: a crossover. You promised no crossovers, so I thought: no connection. I should have expected better from you; of course there it is! At first, CRUX in the pages of THE FIRST, then SOJOURN and THE FIRST, and now, directly in the story, Gammid! You can't imagine the satisfaction I felt when I read this issue. I felt rewarded at being this fan-boy that collects everything you publish. (Yep. Guilty as charged.) Now I see what you meant: to those who don't read CRUX, Gammid was just another prisoner of Charon, but CRUX readers can see what happened to Gammid after he went through the portal. Great job, Mr Bedard!

And while we're at it, let me praise you specifically on another great issue — #9. Qztr scenes always give me goosebumps, and Komptin's pet — talk about a bad temper! I can't wait to learn more about Zaida's baby and those orange eyes! A month is too long! Thanks for being the best!

Oron "Silvereye" Shechner
Rishon-LE-Zion, Israel

Well, you could just wait and buy the trade paperbacks, Oron. That way you could read big chunks of the story at once. Of course, it would also mean that you'd have to wait even longer, so I don't think there's a good solution to your dilemma. Try to look at it this way: good things come to those who wait.

Dear Machinations:

I'm falling in love with this book. It originally placed rather high on my list, but now it's creeping toward number one. I don't have much to

say about issue # 10 (it's not one of the best; I know I shouldn't doubt — and I don't — but this one seemed rather campy) except that I *loved* page 13. I almost felt bad for the little winged monsters. They probably had no idea what they were facing — one grabbed by the leg, one grabbed by the hair. Amusing because it's so true. Thanks for the grins!

Liz Scott
ems250@psu.edu

I dunno, Liz. I, myself, was beginning to feel sorry for Charon. Good thing Tony threw him a bone on page 21, huh? I'd hate to see our God-Emperor in a *bad* mood.

Dear Gina:

Congrats! The creative team you have assembled has pulled off the coup of the century! What am I talking about, you may ask? Well, Tony and Paul have successfully created the most vile, evil, and best villain in the CrossGen Universe: Lawbringer Qztr. Bron, Ilhan, and Mordath have been pushed aside by this demented, powerful creature. And I love it! Great villains make great heroes. Think Spider-Man and Batman would be anywhere if not for their great rivals? The answer is "no." Long live Qztr, so he may be a thorn in the side of this eclectic cast of misfits! Thanks!

Sean Penrose
Norwalk, OH
seandalildemon@aol.com

Qztr's a kick, isn't he, Sean? There's a great bit Tony wrote for him coming up next issue; you're gonna love it!

via snail mail:
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or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

Hello again, everybody

I thought that this month I'd clue you into a new thing we're doing here called "Key Issues." Even after almost three years of publishing, we still get letters from folks saying something to the effect of "Wow! I can't believe what I've been missing all this time! I just started reading your books because I saw your (fill in this blank with: compendia/Comics on the Web/trade paperback, etc.) I never read your books before because of that sigil thing tying all your books together and I didn't wanna have to buy all sorts of books and I didn't think your company was gonna make it and by the time I knew it would make it, the books were too far along and I didn't wanna come in in the middle of a story and…and. .and…" You get the picture. Well, we've decided to make it easier for people to get with the CrossGen program by addressing these issues. In November, when you drop by your local comic shop you'll begin to see a new look popping up on certain issues of every CrossGen Universe title. These new logos and trade dresses are the banner for CrossGen's new Key Issue program, aimed at helping new readers jump onboard CrossGen's existing monthly titles

Each Key Issue will contain a complete story that fits into the current longer-term storyline, but with certain key elements and characters featured in such a way that new readers can come onboard easily without needing to have read any previous issue of that title – or any of the others. The current plan is to have one Key Issue every month, and one Key Issue per year for each title. The scheduling may work out differently, as the Key Issues will always feature that title's regular art teams (not relief artists), so there may be slight variations as time goes by. The logos of the books will change for that issue only, and the style of that logo will be consistent for every title published in the Key Issue program. The issues will also have a Key Issue banner running across the top of the book, and a miniature sigil-key near the artists' signatures. As a matter of fact, you may be holding the first of our Key Issues – THE FIRST #25 -- in your hand right now.

Okay, by this time all our old fans are looking at me like "Gina, why are you telling *me* this?" because I'm preaching to the converted. But, bear with me for a minute, okay? I just wanted all of our existing readers to know that these Key Issues are important to *you*, too. We're not just going to rehash the storylines with which you're all already familiar and cheat you out of your money for that month; that's not what CrossGen is about. All the Key Issues will be books you can't miss, *important* books, paying off plotlines that have been building and moving the story in fresh and exciting directions. So, look for that distinctive cover treatment with even more anticipation than you normally have; we won't let you down. Trust me.

CGE
13
JAN
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$4.75 CAN
www.crossgen.com
Negation
Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives bore a mysterious mark known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few captives who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Kaine and company have joined forces with a group of superhuman Australians led by a woman called Samakar. Kaine's group seeks to rescue baby Memi. Samakar's people are searching for their Atlantean ally, Gammid. Both of their lost comrades are being held captive on the Negation Throneworld by Charon and his enforcer, Lawbringer Oztr. Now the fugitives and the Australians launch a daring raid on the heart of the evil empire...

Negation® Vol. 1 Issue #3 JANUARY 2003 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677 **Negation**® CrossGen, CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration® CrossGeneration Comics® and the CrossGen sigil are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo**™ and all prominent **Negation** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright © CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons, living or dead, are coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics.

Negatian Thronsworld defense satellite 1144.
Perimeter alert!
Unauthorized jump-gate terminus forming in grid sector five.
Warning: unscheduled arrival emerging from jump-gate.

Alert! Alert! Runaway command ship on collision vector to Throneworld at flank speed!

LORD, I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS INTRUSION

I BEAR BAD TIDINGS. I OFFER MY *LIFE* IF I DISPLEASE YOU

THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, CAPTAIN, BUT YOUR DEVOTION *TOUCHES* ME. WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

LORD, THERE'S BEEN AN *INCURSION* INSIDE THE THRONEWORLD DEFENSE GRID. SOMEONE HAS

SOMEONE HAS SET THE COMMAND SHIP [illegible] ON A *COLLISION COURSE* WITH THE IMPERIAL PALACE

OUTRAGE!
WEEE—
QZTR—! CONTROL YOURSELF.
THAT WAS THE CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD. IT TAKES TIME TO *TRAIN* THEM, YOU KNOW.
YES LORD?
YOU ARE THE *NEW* CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD. KEEP ME APPRISED OF OUR PERIMETER BREACH.
Y YES, LORD!
SORRY, FATHER.
JUST REMEMBER: IF YOU ALWAYS KILL THE MESSENGER, NOBODY WILL *TELL* YOU ANYTHING.
ACTIVATE HOLO-COMM.

I ... ALSO HAVE AN EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION STANDING BY FOR THE LAWBRINGER. I THOUGHT I'D SPARE YOU FURTHER INTERRUPTIONS, BUT
PUT IT THROUGH.
VERY GOOD, QZTR.
KOMPTIN! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN...
EMPEROR CHARON--! I APOLO
JUST GET ON WITH IT, HIGH CASTELLAN. WHAT IS SO URGENT?
I AM IN THE RAMPHO SYSTEM WHEN I HEARD OF GENERAL MURQUADE'S DEATH. I CAME IMMEDIATELY
IN VIOLATION OF THE ORDER TO RETREAT?
YES, LORD. I SUSPECTED THAT PRISONER KAINE ENGINEERED MURQUADE'S DEFEAT. MY MANDATE TO RECAPTURE ESCAPED PRISONERS SUPERCEDES RETREAT PROTOCOLS
AND WAS YOUR HUNCH CORRECT?
YES, LORD. IT APPEARS THAT THE FUGITIVES HAVE JOINED FORCES WITH SOME POWERFUL NEWCOMERS
THE ONES GENERAL MURQUADE WAS HUNTING. THEY CAME FROM A PLACE CALLED "AUSTRALIA," IN THE BRIGHT UNIVERSE.
THE TRANSITION TO NEGATION SPACE GAVE THEM CONSIDERABLE POWER, HIGH CASTELLAN. ENGAGE THEM AT YOUR OWN RISK.

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS HOW THEY'VE MANAGED TO HURL MURQUADE'S BROKEN FLAGSHIP AT ME. COMMANDEERING A JUMP-GATE, THOUGH...
...THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE WORK OF YOUR MOTHER'S CLEVER FRIENDS.
COO !
EMPEROR, I HAVE A LONG RANGE VISUAL LOCK ON KAINE'S STOLEN SHUTTLE. THEY'RE APPROACHING THE JUMP-GATE, CLOAKED IN A STEALTH SPHERE. THEY HAVEN'T DETECTED US YET.
I KNOW YOU FORBADE ME TO KILL HIM BEFORE, BUT KAINE CAN'T POSSIBLY BE ALLOWED TO GET AWAY WITH THIS.
PERMISSION TO FIRE?
YES, KOMPTIN. FIRE AT WILL, THEN SWEEP THE WRECKAGE ONCE YOU'VE DESTROYED THE SHIP.
PICK UP THIS CHILD'S MOTHER-- PRISONER ZAIDA. IF SHE'S ANYTHING LIKE HER OFFSPRING, SHE'LL HAVE SURVIVED WHATEVER YOU THROW AT HER.

FATHER, I CAN FEEL THE AUSTRAUANS UP THERE, HIDDEN WITHIN THE COMMAND SHIP.
PLEASE LET ME KILL THEM FOR YOU.
PATIENCE, QZTR. OUR DEFENSES HERE HAVE NEVER BEEN CHALLENGED.
THIS SHOULD PROVE... ENLIGHTENING.
BUT, FATHER--! THROWING OUR OWN FLAGSHIP AT THE THRONEWORLD! THE...THE INSULT IS UNENDURABLE!
TRY TO REMEMBER TO WHOM YOU SPEAK. I AM BEYOND INSULT.
WHAT DO I CARE WHAT MY SUBJECTS THINK OF ME? IF I DESIRED IT, COULD I NOT SNUFF OUT EVERY LIFE IN THE REALM?
...
QZTR...?
...YES, FATHER, FORGIVE ME. THE THOUGHT OF ACTUALLY DOING SUCH A THING... IT'S...
...IT'S INTOXICATING.
OH, QZTR. WHATEVER WILL I DO WITH YOU...?
COME. MY SOLDIERS ARE TEACHING THESE INVADERS WHAT IT MEANS TO DEFY THE NEGATION. LET'S ENJOY THE SHOW...

RIGHT NOW A LOT OF YOU ARE WONDERING IF WE'RE *CURSED*. YOU'RE THINKING WHY *ME*? WHY *US*?

WHY WERE WE LEFT BEHIND BACK ON EARTH, WHEN THE REST OF HUMANITY DEPARTED FOR *GODHOOD*?

WHY, WHEN IT SEEMED WE COULD FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS, DID WE END UP IN *THIS* HELLISH PLACE?

WHY WERE WE GIVEN SUCH *POWER*, ONLY TO BE NEARLY DRIVEN *MAD* BY IT?

AND *WHY* DOES IT FALL TO US NOW TO *SACRIFICE* OURSELVES AGAINST THE MOST POWERFUL FOE IMAGINABLE?

THIS MOMENT IS WHY! ALL OUR PAST SUFFERING *STRENGTHENED* US FOR THIS! THE FATE OF TWO UNIVERSES IS *OURS* TO DECIDE!

SO LET'S *STRIKE* WITHOUT FEAR! LET'S *HURT* THEM SO BAD THEY'LL NEVER SEE GAMMA'S SHIP SPRING PAST THEIR DEFENSES!

LET'S MAKE CERTAIN THEY DON'T NOTICE GAMMA'S RESCUE UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE

BECAUSE ONCE THE *ATLANTEAN* IS FREE *NOTHING* CAN STOP US!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN KOMPTIN'S RIGHT BEHIND US?
LOOK, I CAN'T EXPLAIN HOW I KNOW BUT IN ABOUT TEN SECONDS HIS SHIP'S GONNA SWEEP IN BEHIND US AND BLOW US TO ATOMS!
BUT THE LOCAL PERIMETER FORCES ARE ALL CONVERGING ON THE BIG SHIP NO ONE'S NOTICED US
LET'S GIVE SAMARKAN'S PEOPLE TIME TO MAKE THE FRONTAL ASSAULT CONVINC SUMPHE
THIS ISN'T UP FOR A VOTE!
WE HAVE TO LOOP AROUND BEHIND THE JUMP GATE NOW!
OKAY OKAY THINK THINK
WESTIN! FIND OUT IF THIS BIRD IS EQUIPPED WITH DOCKING CLAMPS!

HOW DID YOU KNOW ?
I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. WE'LL ALL HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO LATER
RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT TO HIT KOMPTIN HARD BEFORE HE KNOWS
WHAT'S HAPPENING?! THEY WERE RIGHT IN FRONT OF US!
I DON'T KNOW SIR!
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T! AS LONG AS THEIR STEALTH SPHERE IS ENGAGED OUR ONLY CHANCE IS A VISUAL--
KANGG
WHAT IN THE ?

SIR! THEY'VE LOCKED ON A DOCKING TUBE!
I HAVE EARS, SOLDIER! SEAL THE CABIN AND STAND BY TO REPEL BOARDERS!

SIR?
SIR!
FIRE!

IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY QUIET IN THERE
I THINK IT'S PROBABLY SAFE TO GO IN
CAN YOU CRACK THE COMBINATION
I'VE YET TO MEET THE LOCK I CAN'T PICK
BEEP BEE DOOP
MATUA YOU DIDN'T !
THEY'RE JUST SLEEPING
NEGATION SPACE IS STILL KEEPING ALL MY ATTACK SPELLS SCRAMBLED UP, BUT I'VE MANAGED TO GET A FEW DEFENSIVE ONES WORKING RIGHT
YOU'RE GONNA BE SOME BIG GUN ONCE YOU SOLVE THAT LITTLE PROBLEM
LOCK THESE GUYS UP IN THE CARGO HOLD. SAMAKAR'S PEOPLE WON'T LAST LONG IF WE DON'T DO OUR PART ASAP

WE'RE NOT GONNA FINISH THEM OFF? YOU MUST BE JOKING!
DO YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE ONCE KOMPTIN RECOVERS THAT HE'LL EVER STOP HUNTING US?
COME ON, KANE! YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE THE SMART THING UP UNTIL NOW !
SOMETIMES THE SMART MOVE IS THE VERY WORST MOVE YOU CAN MAKE
I HAD MY FILL OF COLD-BLOODED MURDER BACK IN THE ARMY NEVER AGAIN
FORGET YOU I'M PUTTING THIS MANIAC OUT OF OUR MISERY
YOU DO THAT, DRAKE, AND YOU MAKE AN ENEMY OUT OF ME
IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU WANT?
WHEN THE TIME COMES I WON'T SAY I TOLD YOU SO I'LL JUST BREAK YOUR JAW

IF THIS CARGO HOLD'S FULL, WE TOSS THEM OUT THE AIRLOCK
NOW NOW
WHAT IN THE WORLDS ?
O KAY
NO REACTION AT ALL... MAYBE IT'S SLEEPING
MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY AND I'LL EAT THESE GUYS
AND BITE THE HAND THAT FEEDS

SIR, THE CLEARION IS NO LONGER A COLLISION THREAT, BUT THE ATTACKERS AREN'T GOING DOWN EASY!
MOBILIZE GROUND TROOPS SECURE THE IMPERIAL PALACE!
A HIGH CASTELLAN NAMED KOMPTIN REQUESTS PERMISSION TO LAND. HE SAYS HE'S BRINGING PRISONERS FOR THE EMPEROR.
NO VISUAL CONFIRMATION, BUT HIS SECURITY CODES CHECK OUT.
YEAH, YEAH, CLEAR HIM AND GET BACK TO TELEMETRY!
AT LEAST SOMEONE'S BRINGING GOOD NEWS.
THEY FELL FOR IT.
GOOD WORK. NOW ONE LAST THING.
SHOW ME HOW TO FLY THIS THING... LIST THE BASICS, WEAPONS CONTROL, TOO. THEN YOU GET BACK TO THE SHUTTLE WITH THE OTHERS.
IN FIVE MINUTES? IMPOSSIBLE. BEST I CAN DO IS AUTOMATE A LANDING SEQUENCE AND PUT THE GUNS ON MANUAL. WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN MIND?
WANNA GIVE YOU A REALISTIC SHOT AT RESCUING THE BABY.

PLANETARY DEFENSES ARE TIED UP BY SAMAKAR'S FRONTAL ASSAULT BUT THE *PALACE* WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING MEMI WILL HAVE ITS OWN GUARD
YOU PEOPLE SHOULD SET DOWN JUST *OUTSIDE* THE PALACE
BUT PROGRAM *THIS* SHIP TO LAND RIGHT *ON TOP* OF THE PLACE
I'LL DRAW THE FIRE SO YOU GUYS CAN GET IN IF I'M VERY *LUCKY*, SOME *HIGH VALUE TARGETS* MIGHT PRESENT THEMSELVES

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, WESTON. I'M NOT JUST SETTING MYSELF UP FOR A SUICIDE MISSION
THE WHOLE POINT IS TO BUY US A CHANCE TO MAKE IT IN THERE ALIVE
STILL... THIS JOB'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GIVE TO ANYONE ELSE
F-FATHER...?

SO IF IT *DOESN'T* GO WELL FOR ME JUST MAKE SURE YOU GUYS HOLD UP *YOUR* END OF THE MISS ON

BECAUSE THE *LAST* THING I WANT TO DO IS THROW MY LIFE AWAY FOR *NOTHING*

INFIDEL!

DIE!

SKRAKK

=UNH=
ARCHITECT OF BLASPHEMY!
ANTI-GOD!
UHH
YOUR PUNISHMENT WILL BE UNSURPASSED!
YOUR SUFFERING WILL BE LEGEND!
BOMB A

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COLORIST

TROY PETERI
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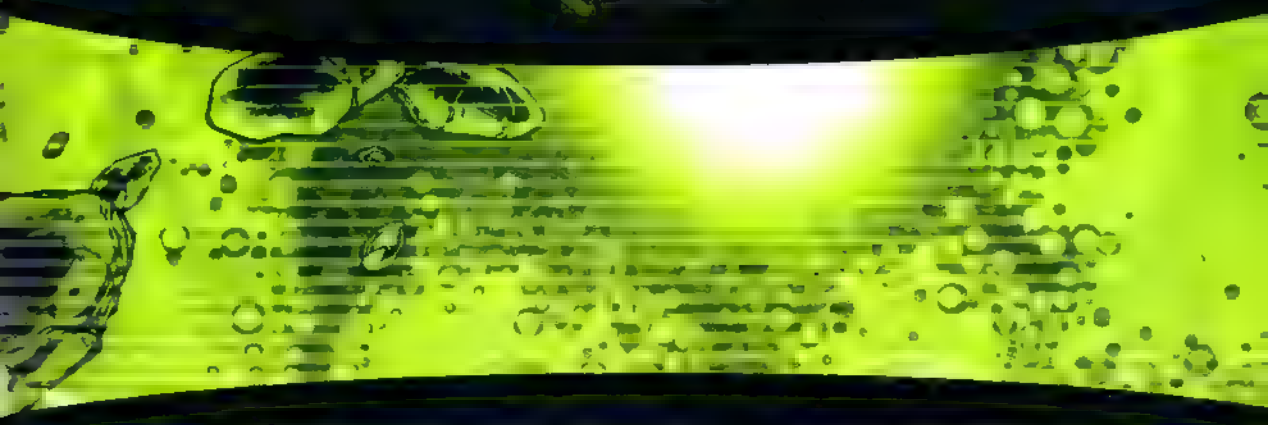
The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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NEGATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR E-MAIL AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OK TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Howdy, Gina!

Poor Memi! Although it was quite disturbing to see a baby put through such brutal trials, I admired the layout choice for issue #10 (even though it made for a quick read) with each splash page depiction of a test triggered by a suggestive word or phrase in the dialogue of the remaining prisoners. "My hopes had been crushed" precedes the crushing test, "... weren't so much as singed" precedes the lighting strike test, and so on. Brilliant!

What was the point of finding Memi's terminal threshold in the first place? Once it's found, the poor kid will be dead! Charon must know what Memi is, and is merely trying to find the key to the defeat (or injury) of her kind. Memi, however, is obviously physically invulnerable, but not emotionally so. Charon seems rather sadistically pleased at Memi's response to his cheap scare. Was this mere sadistic pleasure, though, at finally eliciting a response from the infant, or was it a sign of pleasure at discovering a potential weak point to perhaps exploit (emotional attack, instead of physical)?

I also enjoyed the glimpse into Zaida's past. Was she always impervious to damage, or did her "encounter" with the tractor repairman change her in some drastic way? We never did get a good look at the lad's eyes... Zaida is not letting on that she was aware of her powers back then, but what could have happened to change her so? Oh, and what does Obregon know that we don't that is causing him to cover for Zaida and Memi? Hmmm. The man is thinking ahead, as always, but thinking ahead to what?

Jared Moraitis
Punkmonkey@earthlink.net
Newton, NC

Charon was intrigued by Memi's invulnerability, Jared, and, being a god and accountable to no one, he just went ahead and satisfied his curiosity. There was no malice involved. Charon considers himself benevolent to all of his subjects; when he does something that you or I might consider awful, he thinks of it as acting for their own good. Though as more and more of the tests failed to elicit anything but giggles from Memi, he was getting increasingly frustrated at her lack of response. I think his smile at her reaction to the "boo" was less pleasure at having scared her and more pleasure that he could get her to notice that something was happening to her. Also, he might have been pleased that, in that instance, she reacted exactly as a "normal" baby would have reacted. And, what makes you think that either Zaida or Kaine knows more about Zaida's powers than we do? Isn't it possible that both of them are just as much in the dark as anyone else? If you're referring to Kaine's explanation of how Zaida and Memi survived a blast that should have killed them, I think that was just Kaine trying to come up with a logical explanation for what happened, rather than him "covering up" for them.

Hi, Gina,

NEGATION #11 – yet another issue of the best book no one's reading out there. Tony Bedard really keeps the action flowing and the mysteries growing. Yanick Paquette was a good fill-in for Paul this month and his renditions of our cast were fun.

General Murquade. Such a cool villain. Powerful, looks good in a uniform, civil and polite. More, please – a definite keeper. Evinlea, Evinlea, Evinlea... love what she did this issue. Triple-crossing Murquade, getting Iress shot and just having a good old time at the banquet. Still, that's what 62,000 years of intrigue on Elysia will do for you...

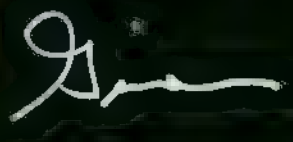
Drake's power is totally amazing. That explains how he survived the jump through space in issue #2. Only drawback I can see is, what happens after he attains his objective? Does the sigil cut off his abilities? He needed rescue and recuperation after smashing that ship back then.

Someone suggested a while back that Lawbringers are the equivalent of the old Soviet Union's political officers. That is, they're not in the army's chain of command, but a suggestion from them is the same as a direct order from the very highest levels. I'd venture that Generals (Kryzorr and Murquade) are equal to Lawbringers in rank. My question is, how many Lawbringers are there? That panel in LAWBRINGER #1 suggested at least eight...

So many questions... Great stuff and I cannot wait for the next issue.

John Koenigsbeck

Dontcha just love those First, John? Evinlea is one of my favorite characters in our Universe. Sorry we killed General Murquade off, but there are plenty more where he came from. You're right about Drake's power. Simply put, it's not cumulative. Lawbringers are created by Charon at need, so their numbers aren't constant, and they are equivalent in power to the First, though – as with the First – power levels vary. The generals are less powerful than Lawbringers, but the most powerful of the Transitioned Earthlings. Again, there is individual overlap. Rank-wise, being the literal children of Charon, they are higher up the pecking order than anybody but him.



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CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

Among the large number of things that are happening to make us proud here at Kool-Aid Central is one that deserves some special recognition. MERIDIAN trade paperbacks have been making people in the book trade sit up and take serious notice. As one of our first four books, all of which were launched in the same month, MERIDIAN has never seemed to get the credit it deserves. Now, though, some of the most prestigious professional publications in the field — like *Publishers Weekly*, *Voice of Youth Advocates*, *Library Journal* and *School Library Journal* have all given MERIDIAN stellar reviews! These mags are the real "top of the heap" of their kind. For instance *Publishers Weekly* is the #1 trade magazine for publishers and booksellers in the U.S.; *Voice of Youth Advocates* is the only journal for Young Adult librarians and is the leading voice in promoting graphic novels in libraries, having the longest-running review column on GN's in the country; *Library Journal* is the longest continuously published trade journal in the U.S. and usually focuses on adult books, so getting recognition from them for a young adult book is huge!

Here's some of what they had to say about MERIDIAN:

"The visual style lies somewhere between anime and art deco, incorporating both exuberant action and static decoration, and it works beautifully. The characters are fascinating too..." "(MERIDIAN has) more moral weight than usual in a mass market comic..." "Beautiful art and strong scripting makes MERIDIAN a superior value."

Publishers Weekly

"Teen fans of fantasy and adventure stories will love MERIDIAN. Librarians should also introduce this series to those teens who like *Dune* and Andre Norton's science fiction adventures, as well as to manga readers who like *Sailor Moon*."

Voice of Youth Advocates

"Demetria is the most fully-realized of all CrossGen's invented worlds and Sephie herself is the publisher's most endearing character. Teens will identify with her, and adult comics fans will enjoy the story as well. Libraries should get the whole series."

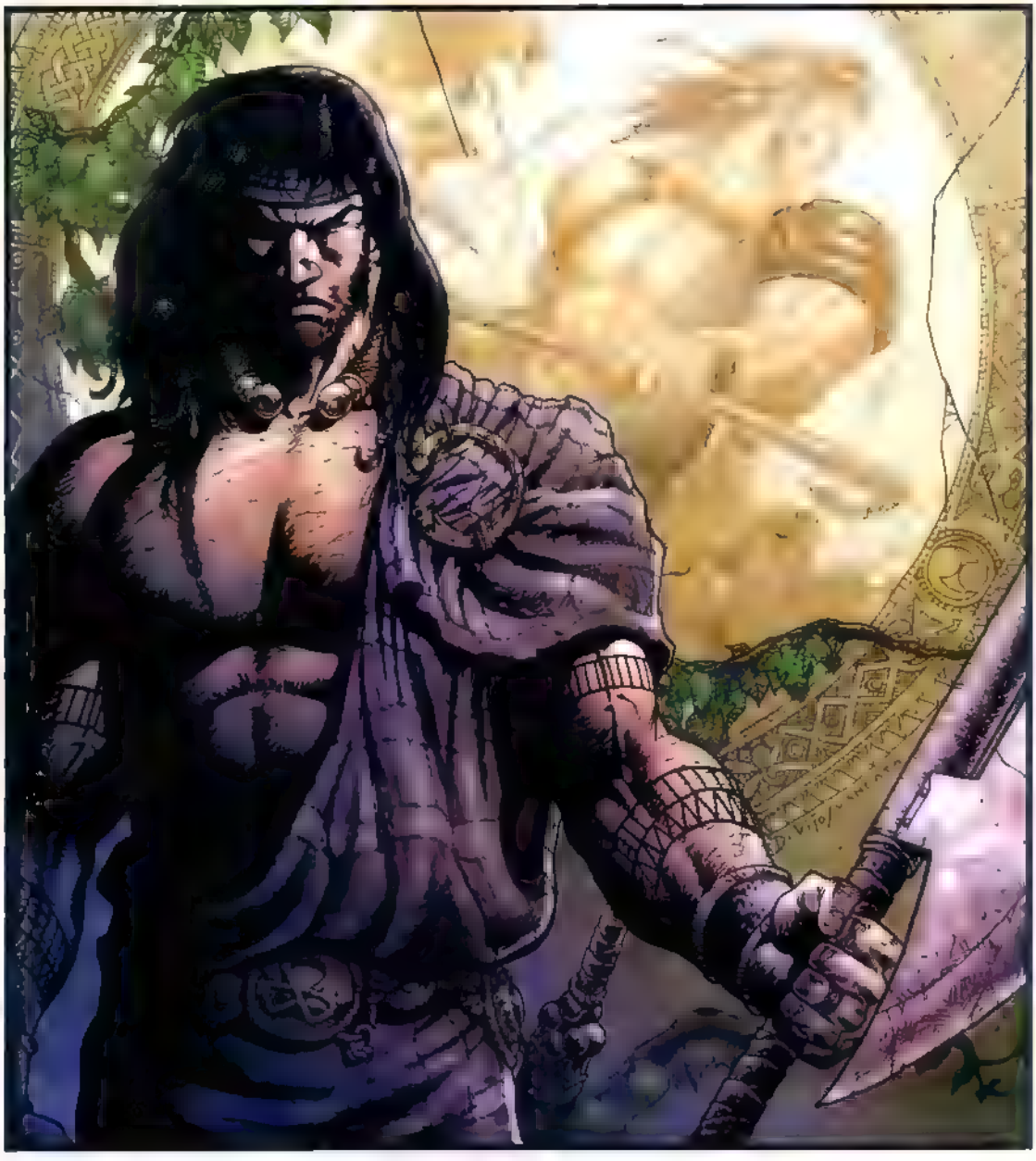
Library Journal

"Sephie is a strong heroine, dedicated, sincere, and loyal... The dynamic, lush color art is equally adept at displaying emotion or action. ...a coming-of-age story on a richly imagined world with appealing characters. ...relevant to teens without being patronizing."

School Library Journal

Kudos to the fantastic creative team of MERIDIAN, Barbara Kesel, Steve McNiven, Tom Simmons, and Morry Hollowell, for this well-deserved praise!

ONE MAN STANDS AGAINST THE LEGIONS



BRATH Prequel

Written by Chuck Dixon, art by Andrea Di Vito & Brad Vancata, colors by Rob Schwager

The beginning of an epic tale of worlds in collision and an empire in decline. Brath Mac Garen is the warchief of a clan that rules the last free land in the known world. His forces are pitted against the numberless legions of a ruthless emperor who will stop at nothing to enslave them.

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NEGATION
Tony Bedard
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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

With a group of superhuman allies leading the charge, Kaine and company launched a daring raid on the Negation Throneworld. In order to rescue Charon's hostages, baby Memi and the Atlantean called Gammid, the fugitives landed their shuttlecraft near the Imperial Palace. Kaine, however, stayed aboard the warship they captured from Komptin and attacked the palace directly. Kaine's diversion proved costly as he was struck down by Charon's enforcer, Lawbringer Oztr, and the chances are slim his comrades will reach him in time for a rescue...

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HI, MY NAME S CORRIN
WE COME TO THE ONGEST, WEIRDEST DREAM I VE EVER HAD
I M TE LING YOU, THE MINUTE THEY OPEN MY POD, I M GIVING THE GUY WHO DESIGNED THESE THINGS A P ECE OF MY MIND
I MEAN, SURE, THEY TOLD US WHEN WE VOLUNTEERED THAT STASIS MIGHT HAVE CERTAIN SIDE EFFECTS.
BUT NOBODY SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE DREAMS.

I GUESS I ONLY HAVE *MYSELF* TO BLAME WE DID *CHOOSE* TO STAY BEHIND AFTER ALL

I *COULD'VE* JOINED THE *REST* OF ATLANTIS IN THE BIG *TRANSITION* MALEDAE KNOWS I *WANTED* TO

BUT IF *EVERYONE* HAD BEEN SO SELFISH *NO ONE* WOULD'VE STUCK AROUND TO HELP THE HUMAN RACE GET THEIR ACT TOGETHER

MY ONLY REAL REGRET IS THAT TIME PASSES WAY TOO *SLOWLY* IN STASIS I MEAN THE PODS ARE SET TO OPEN RIGHT AFTER THE OTHERS MOVE ON

BUT IT *FEELS* LIKE WE'VE BEEN IN HERE A *THOUSAND YEARS!*

ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I SHOULD BE *THANKFUL* FOR THE DREAMS AT LEAST THEY KEEP ME *ENTERTAINED*

IT'S JUST THAT LATELY THEY'VE TAKEN A *DARKER* TURN

LATELY THEY'RE ALWAYS ABOUT THESE *NEGATION* GUYS

NOT TO MENTION THE MOTLEY GROUP OF *WEIRDOES* I DREAMED UP AS MY FRIENDS HOW DID I EVER COME UP WITH *THEM?*

TEN MINUTES AGO, MY "FRIENDS AND I LANDED OUTSIDE THE IMPERIAL PALACE ON A RESCUE MISSION
THE PLAN WAS SIMPLE WHILE OUR ALLIES TAKE ON THE PLANET'S ORBITAL DEFENSES, WE SNEAK IN AND RESCUE THEIR LEADER AND THE BABY FROM THE NEGATION EMPEROR
SIMPLE PLAN SIMPLE AS SUICIDE GOOD THING THIS IS ONLY A DREAM
WHEN AM I EVER GONNA COME UP WITH SOMEWHERE FUN FOR US TO RAID ? LIKE A REBEL MASSAGE SPA OR A PLANET MADE OF CHOCOLATE
SORRIN SHUT UP AND TRY TO ACT MORE LIKE A SOLDIER !

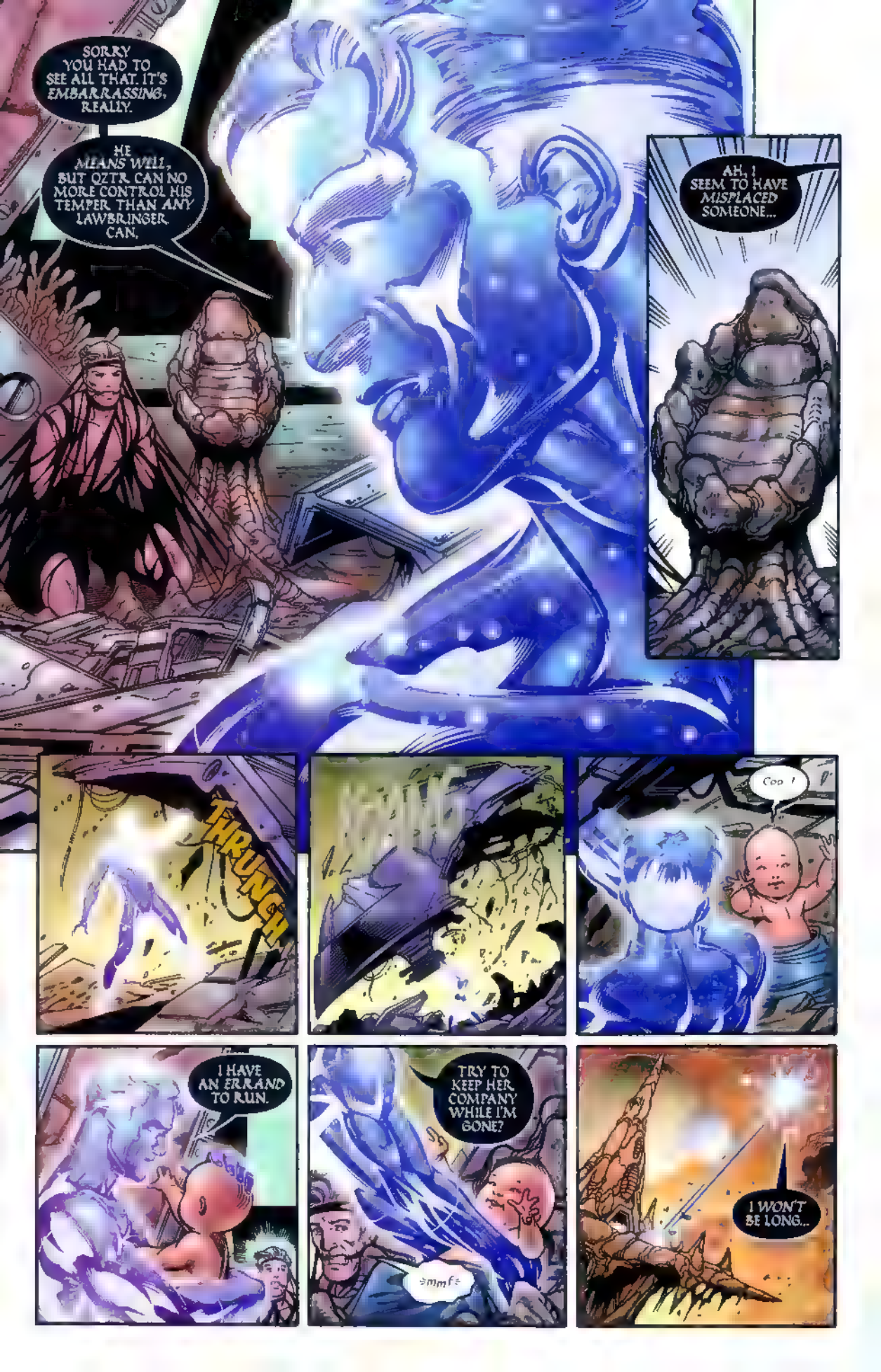
YOU SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE QUEEN OF DENIAL WITH US?
SHE'S STRONGER THAN SHE LOOKS. WE'S IN REAL STRONG PLUS, THE ARMOR FIT HER
JUST WAIT HERE AND DON'T OPEN THE DOOR FOR ANYONE BUT US
DON'T BE LONG I GOTTA LISTEN TO HIM THE WHOLE TIME YOU'RE GONE
DID I EVER TELL YOU ABOUT THE TIME I LED A RAID ON THE NEGATION WASTE REFINERY ON RIOPAN MINUS 2
MONCHITO, MONCHITO!
LET'S DO THIS, FOLKS. KAINE PAID A BIG PRICE TO GIVE US THIS OPPORTUNITY
I ONLY HOPE HE DIDN'T PAY WITH HIS LIFE
BOOM

UNTHINKABLE!
THE SHEER INSULT OF IT IS... UNENDURABLE!
YOU FIRED UPON THE EMPEROR!
KILLING YOU ISN'T ENOUGH, NO. FIRST, I NEED YOU TO--
--SUFFER!
AIEEE!

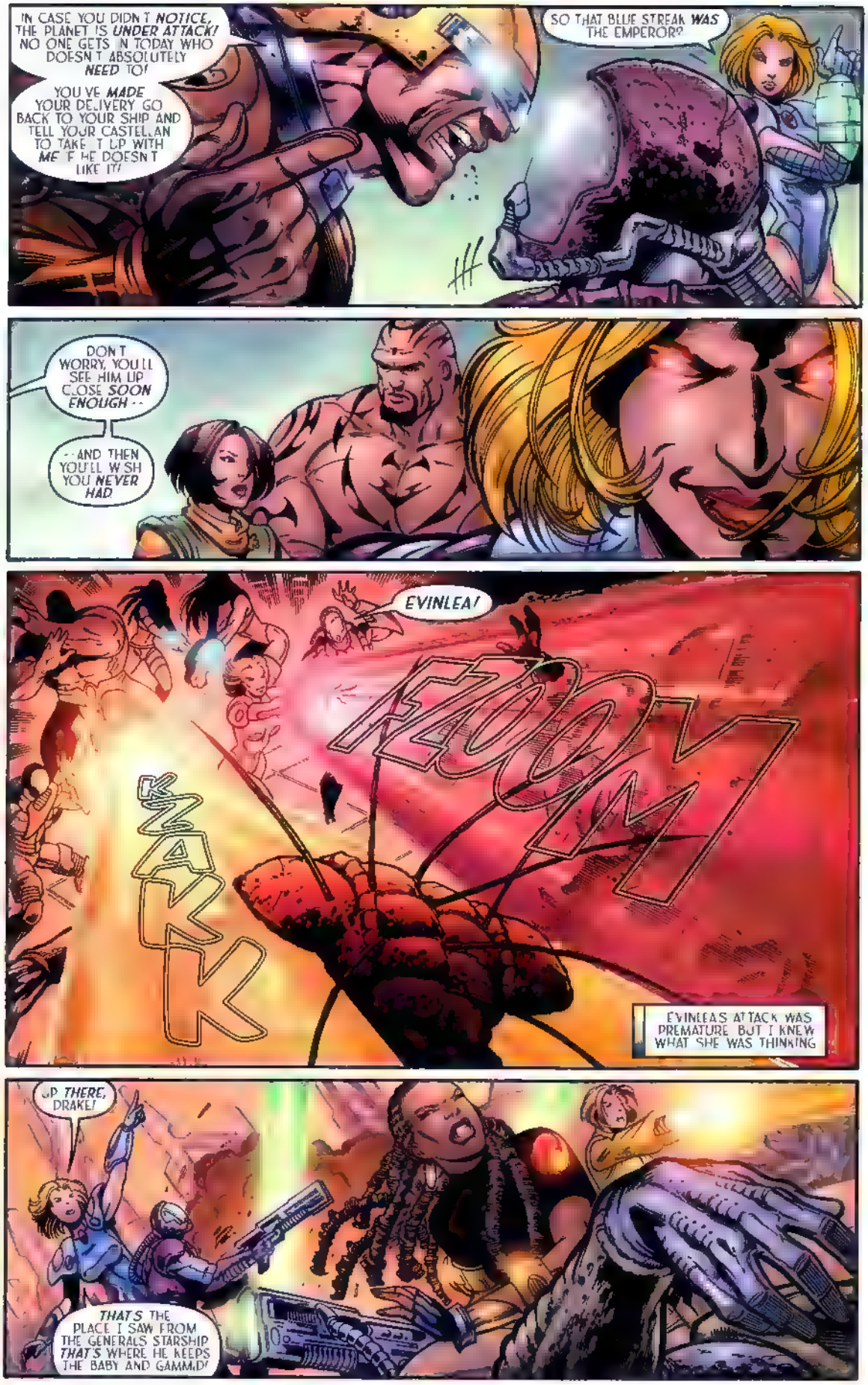
NO!
I GET TO KILL HIM!
IS THAT SO...?
EEYAAHH!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR VENDETTA, KOMPTIN.
SHARE THE HUMAN'S FATE.
OZTR, WAIT--!

FATHER, I HUMBLY APOLOGIZE FOR THIS OUTRA--
BE SILENT.
YOU, TOO.
YOU'VE DONE MORE THAN ENOUGH TO SPOIL THE DAY FOR ME.

YOU SENT THEM TO KARAKORUM.
YOU KNOW THAT'S A SPECIAL PUNISHMENT THAT I MUST APPROVE, AND YET YOU DID IT ANYWAY.
BUT...HE DARED...!
HE SHOT AT YOU...!
YOU DIDN'T DO THAT FOR ME. YOU DID IT TO SATISFY YOUR OWN ANGER.
GO NOW. FOR YOUR PENANCE, YOU MAY NOT HELP YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTER DEFEND THE THRONEWORLD.
WHAT?
I SAID GO.


SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE ALL THAT. IT'S EMBARRASSING, REALLY.
HE MEANS WELL, BUT QZTR CAN NO MORE CONTROL HIS TEMPER THAN ANY LAWBRINGER CAN.
AH, I SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED SOMEONE...
THRUNCH
Coo !
I HAVE AN ERRAND TO RUN.
TRY TO KEEP HER COMPANY WHILE I'M GONE?
mmfe
I WON'T BE LONG...

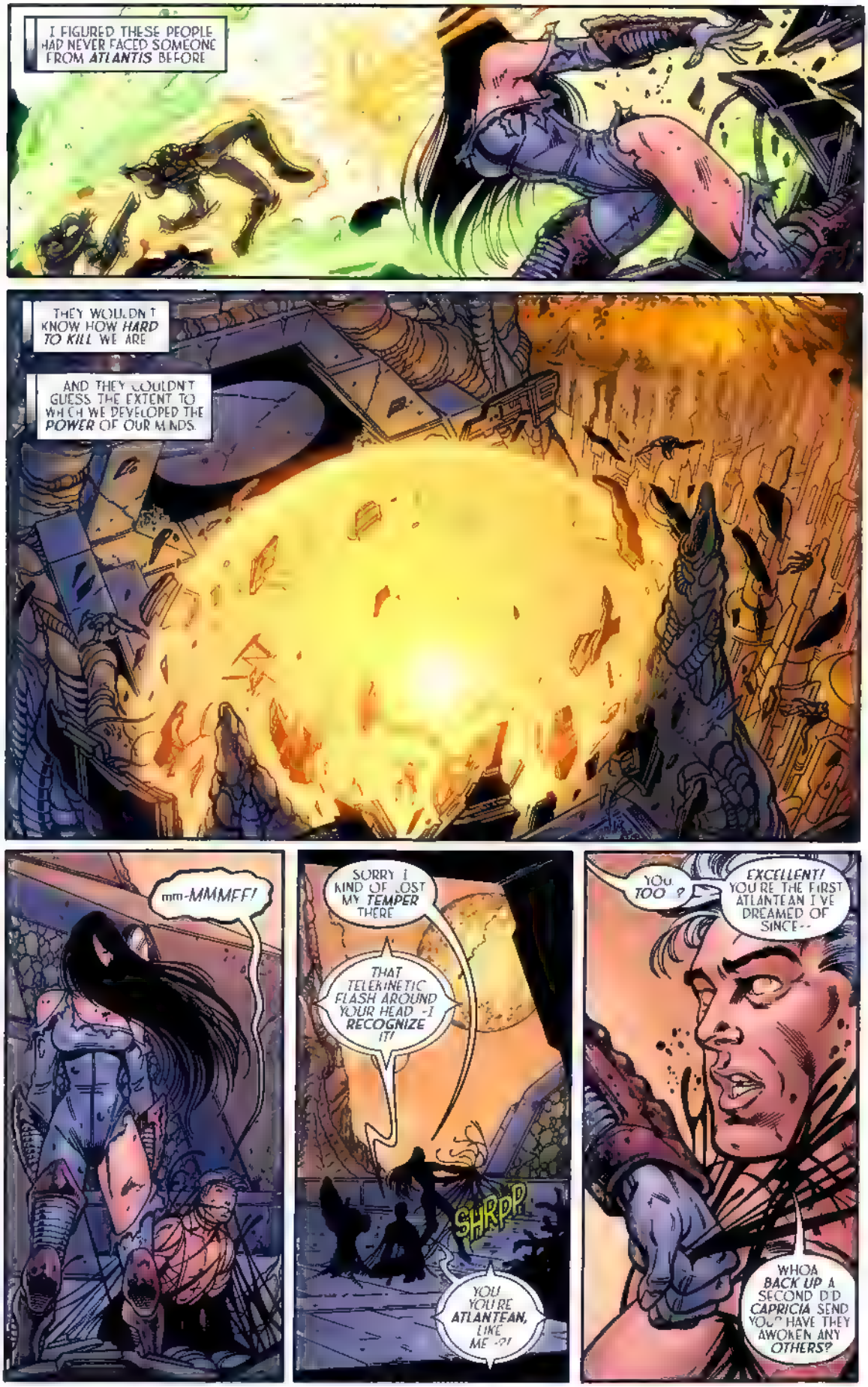
AS I WATCHED HIM TAKE FLIGHT, I COULD FEEL HIM. A MOUNTAIN A CONTINENT ON THE PSYCHIC LANDSCAPE. AND THAT'S WHAT SHAKES ME ABOUT THESE DREAMS.
USED TO BE THE CHARACTERS IN MY DREAMS WERE PSYCHIC BLANKS. BUT LATELY I CAN ACTUALLY FEEL THEIR MINDS. RIGHT NOW, I FEEL YOURS.
WOW. SO THAT'S HIM, huh?
AVERT YOUR GAZE SOLDIER! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
WHAK
Ah. SORRY SIR. IT'S HER FIRST TIME OFF WORLD.
BETWEEN YOU AND ME, SHE'S A TERRIBLE RECRUIT. BUT HER FATHER'S A BIG SHOT IN OUR QUADRANT ENERGY COUNCIL SO I GOTTA KEEP HER.
=Hmf= HER FATHER SHOULD'VE TAUGHT THE GIRL SOME SENSE.
Ah. RIGHT. WE'LL TAKE YOUR PRISONERS IN FROM HERE.
WITH RESPECT, SIR, MY ORDERS FROM HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN ARE TO DELIVER THEM TO THE EMPEROR PERSONALLY!


IN CASE YOU DIDN'T NOTICE, THE PLANET IS UNDER ATTACK! NO ONE GETS IN TODAY WHO DOESN'T ABSOLUTELY NEED TO!
YOU'VE MADE YOUR DELIVERY GO BACK TO YOUR SHIP AND TELL YOUR CASTELLAN TO TAKE IT UP WITH ME IF HE DOESN'T LIKE IT!
SO THAT BLUE STREAK WAS THE EMPEROR?
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL SEE HIM UP CLOSE SOON ENOUGH--
--AND THEN YOU'LL WISH YOU NEVER HAD
EVINLEA!
KAKK
KOW
EVINLEA'S ATTACK WAS PREMATURE BUT I KNEW WHAT SHE WAS THINKING
UP THERE, DRAKE!
THAT'S THE PLACE I SAW FROM THE GENERAL'S STARSHIP THAT'S WHERE HE KEEPS THE BABY AND GAMMA!

EVEN IF YOU'RE RIGHT, YOU JUST BLEW OUR COVER! I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TALK OUR WAY UP THERE!
DOUBTFUL HE WAS NOT GOING TO LET YOU IN ANYHOW WHY NOT TAKE A MORE DIRECT ROUTE?
WHAT, DID YOU FIGURE OUT HOW TO TELEPORT WITHOUT JAVI'S HELP?
NO WHAT I HAVE IN MIND IS MUCH LESS COMPLEX
CORRIN! YOU DON'T MIND ME TOSSING YOU UP THERE DO YOU? IF IT'S A CLEAR CAT DRAW ON YOUR SUIT'S COMMUNICATOR AND LET US KNOW
BUT, COULDN'T I GET HURT ?
NOT IN THAT ARMOR BESIDES, YOU'VE TOLD US A MILLION TIMES THIS SALE A DREAM, ISN'T IT? WHAT COULD GO WRONG?
Jim
IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE THE BIG HERO
OKAY!
EVINLEA?! WHAT ARE YOU --?

IT SEEMED LIKE GOOD DREAM-LOGIC TO ME AND IT *WAS* FUN
BUT EVINLEA WAS *WRONG* ABOUT ONE THING
IT *DID* HURT
=Whung=
KRAK!!!
unh
MEMI ?!
AM I GLAD TO SEE *YOU*, LITTLE GIRL!

SIR, HI
YOU'RE GAMMID, RIGHT?
I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU!
ZARK
ACTUALLY, ALL OF THIS HURT QUITE A BIT
AND I BEGAN TO WONDER IF MY DREAMS HAD BECOME SO REALISTIC THAT I COULD BE KILLED HERE
FINE
I'D MOSTLY FLOATED THROUGH THIS DREAM AS AN OBSERVER UNTIL NOW
TIME FOR MORE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
KRAK


I FIGURED THESE PEOPLE HAD NEVER FACED SOMEONE FROM ATLANTIS BEFORE
THEY WOULDN'T KNOW HOW HARD TO KILL WE ARE
AND THEY COULDN'T GUESS THE EXTENT TO WHICH WE DEVELOPED THE POWER OF OUR MINDS.
mm-MMMFF!
SORRY I KIND OF LOST MY TEMPER THERE
THAT TELEKINETIC FLASH AROUND YOUR HEAD -I RECOGNIZE IT!
SHRPP
YOU YOU'RE ATLANTEAN, LIKE ME -?!
YOU, TOO ?
EXCELLENT! YOU'RE THE FIRST ATLANTEAN I'VE DREAMED OF SINCE--
WHOA BACK UP A SECOND D'D CAPRICIA SEND YOU? HAVE THEY AWOKEN ANY OTHERS?

NO
SAMAKAR AND HER PEOPLE TOLD US ABOUT YOU. SHE SAID YOU WERE THEIR LEADER SO I THOUGHT YOU WERE *AUSTRALIAN* LIKE THEM
SAMAKAR?! SHE'S STILL *ALIVE?!* WHERE *IS* SHE?!
THEY'RE ALL UP *THERE*, TAKING ON THE PLANET'S DEFENSES
SOON AS YOU AND MEM ARE SAFELY OUT, THEY'LL BREAK OFF AND *RENDEZVOUS* WITH US FAR AWAY FROM HERE
BUT I'M A LITTLE WORRIED NOW THAT THE EMPEROR-GUY FLEW UP THERE
EITHER HE'S GONE TO FIGHT THE AUSTRALIANS *HIMSELF*--
--OR ELSE HE'LL CALL IN *REINFORCEMENTS* TO DO THE DIRTY WORK FOR HIM
LIKE THAT *LAWBRINGER* WHO ATTACKED ME AND MY FRIENDS. I DOUBT EVEN *SAMAKAR'S PEOPLE* COULD TAKE HIM ON
YOU DON'T THINK THEY COULD HAVE ANY *MORE* LAWBRINGERS STASHED SOMEWHERE, *DO* YOU?

WHERE IS QZTR, FATHER?

YOUR BROTHER WON'T BE JOINING US TODAY.

DO TRY AND HAVE FUN WITHOUT HIM.

SHRAKOOM
THEY'RE DYING UP THERE!
I KNOW! IF THIS WASN'T ALL A DREAM, I THINK I'D
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING THAT?! THIS IS NOT A DREAM!
SURE IT IS! THERE'S NO NEGATION UNIVERSE! I'M IN MY STASIS TUBE RIGHT NOW--
YOU'RE NOT IN YOUR STASIS TUBE! THIS IS FOR REAL!
I'M OPENING MY MEMORY TO YOU... SEARCH IT! READ MY MIND! UNDERSTAND!

CORRIN! CORRIN, DO YOU READ ME?
SO MUCH FOR YOUR HALF BAKED PLAN, EVINLEA! SHE'S GONE!
LET'S GO!
SHRAKT
PUNCH IT WESTIN!
MEM!!
I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT CORRIN
SAVE IT, EVINLEA. YOU USED ME TO TEST THEIR DEFENSES. YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME
IT'S WHAT SHE EXCELS AT-- ALONG WITH MAKING ENEMIES
S KA NE DEAD?
HE SAYS KAINE GOT SENT SOMEWHERE
JUST GET US TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT
AND [illegible] SAMAKAR ABOUT LAUNCHING ANOTHER RESCUE MISSION

I ONLY HOPE ENOUGH OF HER PEOPLE SURVIVED"

STORYTELLERS

TONY BERNARD
WRITER

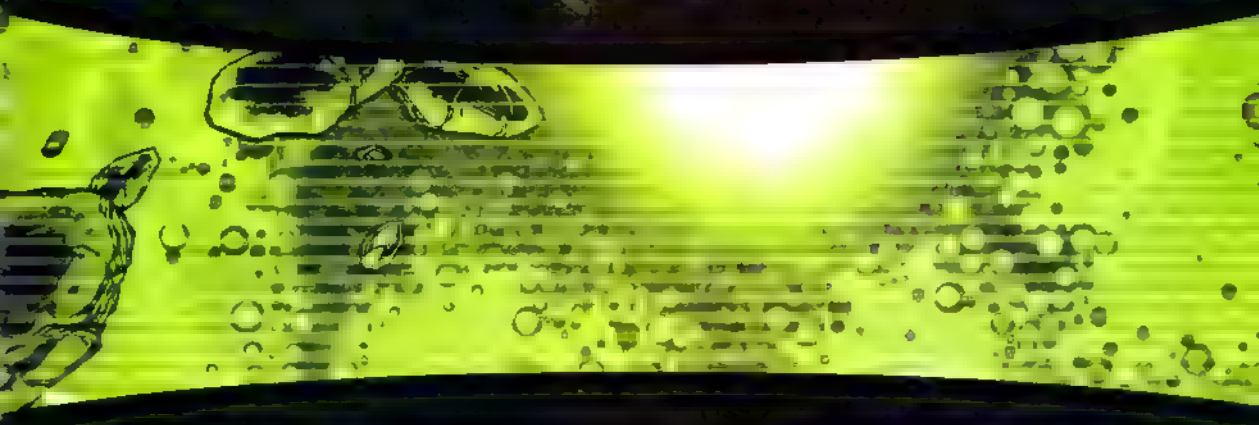
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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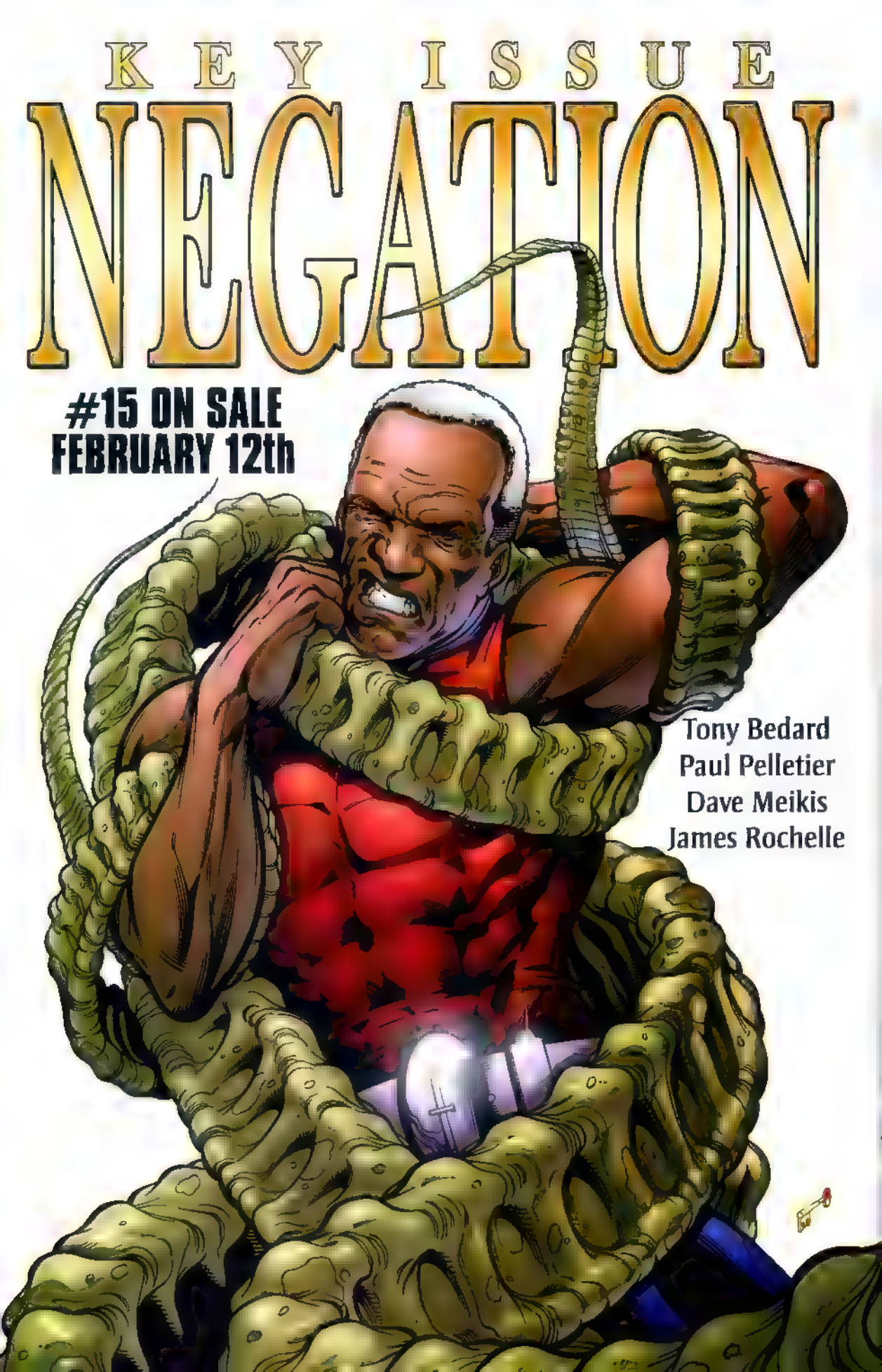
KEY ISSUE

NEGATION

#15 ON SALE
FEBRUARY 12th



Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
James Rochelle

MACHINATIONS
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED. MARK YOUR E-MAILS AS "OKAY TO PRINT." LETTERS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT AND LENGTH.

Dear Machinations:

All I can say is, wow! The NEGATION team can do no wrong. Every month, I buy NEGATION and I think to myself "It can't be as good as last month," and every single time I have been proven wrong. NEGATION #12 was excellent all around. Art? Beautiful. Colors? Excellent. Story? Great, as always! The Transitioned Australians being teamed up with Kaine adds even more firepower to the team now. It seems they might actually have a chance when they attack the Negation head on! That little dream sequence was interesting too. Is Memi the mentor, or is Zaida? Or, are they both? Or, neither? I'm eagerly awaiting the next issue of NEGATION now, which promises to be great. Issue #14 should be awesome too, since it focuses on my favorite character, Corrin!

I know you hear this a lot, but I've been collecting comics for years now, and this is the first time I've ever written in to any company. Thank you, all, for giving me a reason to!

Kyle Litke
Naugatuck, CT
KLitke7967@aol.com

There certainly is something mysterious about this mother-daughter combo, Kyle, but answering your question now will spoil some things in store down the road. Sorry! The good news is, though, that you've got scads of great stories to read while you wait. Yep, now that Corrin finally realizes that she's been awake all this time, she'll have to have a major attitude adjustment.

Gina,

Once again, you wonderful Folks-at-CrossGen have proved why NEGATION is worth every penny I've ever spent on it. Issue #13's pencils, inks, and coloring are among the industry's elite efforts. Take this wonderful power-packed combination and throw in Tony Bedard's excellent storytelling skills and you've created what is easily the best monthly series in all of comicdom!

I enjoy the monthlies so much, I'm even considering buying the trades, just so I can read it again in another format and possibly eke some more excitement from the pages. Observing Obregon's military strategy is highly intriguing while I'm patiently awaiting the return of Javi. Also, the plot twists regarding Evinlea's ever-increasing treachery are especially enjoyable.

I had an opportunity to speak with Paul Pelletier and Tony at the San Diego Comic-Con this past August (and James Rochelle, who made a guest appearance) and all I can say is, that as long as you have these excellent gentlemen creating this fine comic, it will continue to be my favorite.

Thanks for all the effort!

Mike Bullock
chevymetal2k@earthlink.net

You're right Mike, all those guys are right up there in the category of "good people," as is Dave Meikis, the book's inker — and, (though I may be the tiniest bit prejudiced) so is everybody else I work with here. Be sure to latch on to MARK OF CHARON, written by Tony and with pencils by Joe Bennett. The first issue of this five-book mini will be on sale in April of 2003, and I'm tellin' you, it rocks!

Dear creators of NEGATION:

Recently, I wrote a letter to *Entertainment Weekly* concerning their article on Marvel Comics' *Truth* because I wanted to comment on how Obregon Kaine is proof that comics are beginning to truly embrace diversity in terms of cool, complex characters as well as content. I told them that NEGATION combines the best elements of *Star Wars* and *The Great Escape* and that the star of NEGATION was a cunning military leader.

The article mentioned that there had been some racist backlash

against the black Captain America in the comic. Traditionally, hardcore fanboys are wary — even hostile — to non-white lead characters that are cool, confident, and cunning. Little wonder black superheroes like Marvel's Blade and DC/Milestone's Static have found far more success in movies and cartoons, respectively, than in "funnybooks." Yet, *Truth* bashers are baffled why an increasingly multicultural mainstream dismisses comic fans in general as backward, insular geeks.

I gave two reasons why NEGATION and the Marvel book would go a long way towards improving the image of the lately maligned and even ignored comic industry and its fans. First, they — and other comics like *Blade* and *Black Panther* — will demonstrate to non-fanboys how the medium is as fresh, provocative, and enjoyable as the best TV shows, films, and novels. Secondly, they will convince skeptical minority readers that comics are not "for white guys only."

I was glad to give a quality book like NEGATION a boost. Who knows, maybe the letter will get printed and help spread the word.

Frederick D. Weaver
duane106@olg.com

Thanks for the plug, Frederick. Thanks to Tony, I think Kaine is one of our best characters. Given the nature of how the abductees were collected, we thought it only made sense to make the NEGATION cast as diverse as we could. While we don't like to categorize any of our characters (after all, we don't call Ethan "the blond prince") we thought it was high time to have a non-white lead in one of our books for just the reasons you mention.

via snail mail:
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4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400
Oldsmar, Florida 34677

or via e-mail:
letters@crossgen.com
NEGATION (in the subject line)

CROSSCURRENTS

by Gina Villa

Well, chums, all good things come to an end...but, frequently, they're replaced with something better. We think that's just what we have in store for you next month, when we revamp the look and content of these pages.

A number of things factored into the decision, but, truth to tell, a lot of it was driven by the fact that, more and more, people seem to prefer to communicate with us via the message boards instead of sending us letters. I don't just mean the write-on-a-piece-of-paper, stamp-the-envelope kind of letters, either; even the e-mail correspondence has been sparse of late. We do have a faithful cadre of letter writers upon whom I can always depend, month in and month out. But I feel if the same people's names appear in the letters columns time after time (let's face it — this has been happening), after a while everybody else will get the feeling that there's some kind of exclusive little club thing going on and we'll inevitably lose the type of lively dialogue that was the hallmark of my favorite letters columns back in the day.

Now, don't get me wrong. The letters columns are not going away permanently. Every two or three months — or whenever I get a good assortment of interesting mail — we'll publish a couple of pages of letters in each of our books. I'll also use this space in *CrossCurrents* to print a single particularly thought-provoking or insightful letter. I never want to deprive our readers of a forum in which to air their views just because they don't have a computer or access to the Internet. While I'll miss our more frequent chats, I look forward to getting a big bunch of stimulating mail from lots of different people. Don't you disappoint me, y'hear?

So, what's going to be filling this space? As I said, my *CrossCurrents* column will be sticking around, emphasizing happenings in the CrossGen Universe arm of the company and it will be joined by a similar column written by Ian Feller, our Code 6 Managing Editor, about goings-on over in that world. Our *Recommended Reads* will continue to be a staple. We'll also be doing things like creator interviews, employee profiles, and spotlights on new products and projects. Who knows, occasionally we might even throw in some fan art again. In short, you'll be getting a lot of cool info about everything CGE-related, all wrapped up in a snazzy visual package.

Watch this space for the great unveiling next month, then tell us how you like it. Uh, not that you have to write a letter, or anything like that...

CROSSGENERATION COMICS, INC. RECOMMENDED GOOD READ!

Recommended Reads

In matters of taste, preference, favorites like whore (Depp) or one writer, I'll make an exception in this case and point you towards the works of **Mike Carey**. Having had the pleasure of working with the writer in the past on a couple of projects — and being mightily impressed with the plots, settings and characterizations, as well as whole work ethic — I have no hesitation in leading you towards a whole bunch of comics he produces at this moment. At the top of the pile is *Lucifer*, published by DC/Vertigo. *Lucifer* is an epic story usually presented in short story arcs, although each arc encompasses the whole, and each issue has so far been astounding (in particular the regular single-issue stories which crop up between arcs). The publishers are comprehensively reprinting the *Lucifer* storylines in trade paperback format, so it's never too late to catch up with one of the most original books out there. As well as *Lucifer* I would also recommend Mr. Carey's other recent work, including *Hellblazer*, *The Furies* graphic novel (due at Halloween although I'm reluctant to recommend it until it comes out and I've read it. Yet, Mr. Carey [illegible] and also to be renamed *Firestorm* for the DCU.

KEY ISSUE

NEGATION

CGE

15 MARCH

$2.95

$4.75 CAN

www.crossgen.com

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in *our* cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

In the chaos of a battle on the Negation Throneworld, Kaine and Komptin ran afoul of Charon's enforcer, Lawbringer Oztr. The sadistic Lawbringer used his awesome power to teleport Kaine, Komptin, and Komptin's "dog," Gullit, to a legendary place of punishment...

Negation® Vol. 1, Issue 15 MARCH 2003 FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **Negation®**, **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, **CrossGeneration Comics®**, and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Negation®** characters and images are a Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

Negation World 000131
Local Name: Karakorum
Status: Quarantined. The planet is permanently sealed. Standard traffic to and from the surface is forbidden.
Access to surface and indigenous life forms possible only by teleportation--and sanctioned only by the Emperor as punishment...
MMMMMMMMM--
?

...for Karakorum is the most feared destination in all the Negation Imperium.

SWASH

AAAIIIEEE!

!

AAA-

WHUNG

THUD

sahs

sahs

sahs

sahs

SSSSSSSSSSS

SSSSSSSSSS

SHUFF

SHUFF

MMMMMMMMM--

sahs GOD WHERE ?

SWASH

WHERE IN HELL

DID THAT FREAK SEND ME

YOU MEAN US

WHERE DID THE LAWBRINGER SEND US?

NOT EXACTLY HOW I ENVISIONED IT HAPPENING BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME
KOMPTIN...!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE SLOW!
I HAD A FUTURE BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU COST ME?!

EIGHTEEN YEARS I GAVE TO THE NEGATION
THRAK
=GAHH
KISSING ALL THE RIGHT BUTTS
STABBING ALL THE RIGHT BACKS
WORMING MY WAY UP FROM NOTHING TO COMMAND A KEY OUTPOST--
=HHHE
AND THEN YOU THREW ALL OF THAT
=HRAH!
eh--?

HRAI!!

HRAII!

HRAIII!

BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS

HRAIII!

W-WE RE ON KARAKORUM !

Wh ?

HRAII!

HEE
HEE

MMM
FWAP
GULLIT! THANK THE STARS HE PUNISHED YOU TOO!
THERE, BOY! ATTACK!

GYOARRRRR!
HRAII!?
=HFF=
=HFF=
=HFF=
=urngle=

HEY! THAT'S *HOME!* HOW DID I?

AH, WHO CARES? I'VE GOT A *MISSION* TO COMPLETE AND SOME *REBELS* TO KILL

OUTTA *ONE* JAIL INTO *ANOTHER* SCHEMING TO BRING DOWN THE *LITTLE DICTATOR* IN CHARGE

SAME AS IT *EVER* WAS

THOUGH GETTING KIDNAPPED TO A WHOLE OTHER *UNIVERSE* IS A NEW TWIST

STILL, I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE WITH ENOUGH TRAINING AND SENSE TO PLAN A DECENT *BREAKOUT*

WINNING ME A BUNCH OF FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS AND ONE LIFELONG *ENEMY*

I'M OUT OF MY LEAGUE. JUST A MAN AGAINST AN EMPIRE

STEADY, MEN. YOU'RE ON SNOOP AND POOP WITH CAPTAIN *OBREGON KAINE*--BONA FIDE *WAR HERO*

OR *NOT!*

I WAS

I WAS

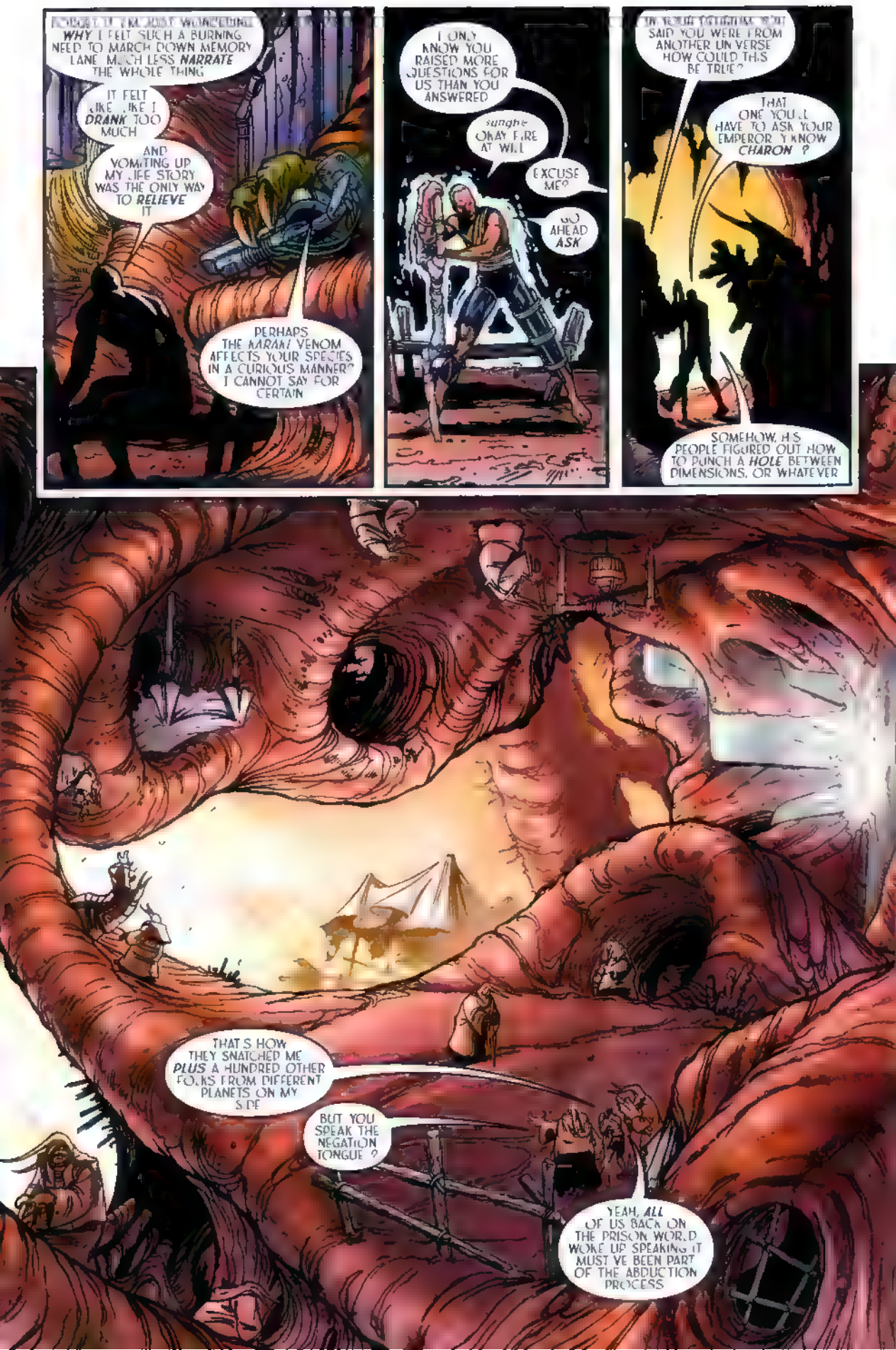
...LEAST UNTIL I FRAG THE *PRESIDENT*

AND THANK *YOU,* GENTLEMEN WHEREVER THIS WE'RE *GOING,* IT'S GOTTA BEAT THE *PENETENTIARY* I'VE BEEN ROTTING IN

I WAS BETTER OFF ON *DEATH ROW..!*

DO NOT MOVE YOU HAVE BEEN BADLY HURT
Unnhh
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM SAYING, OBREGONKAINE?
HOW [illegible] DO YOU KNOW MY NAME ?
YOU SPOKE IT WHILE YOU WERE HALLUCINATING
Unnhh !
PLEASE! YOU WILL RIP YOUR STITCHES!
YOU WERE STUNG BY A NARAKI FORTUNATELY WE MANAGED TO RESCUE YOU BEFORE THEY ATE YOU
YOU ARE A GUEST NOW IN OUR VILLAGE YOU ARE WELCOME TO STAY UNTIL YOU RECOVER FROM YOUR ORDEAL
MY NAME IS COUQUI MY ASSISTANT IS PEPO

WHERE ARE YOU FROM, OBREGONKAINE? WE'VE NEVER SEEN YOUR LIKE HERE ON KARAKORUM
YEAH, I'M DEFINITELY NOT FROM AROUND HERE
MY SPECIES, WE CALL OURSELVES HUMANS. I'M FROM A PLANET CALLED KAZRATH
KAZRATH
Um. YEAH. HOW DID YOU...?
THIS DEVICE WHEN WE USED IT TO SCAN YOUR HEAD INJURIES IT READ THE IMAGES IN YOUR MIND
THEY WEREN'T JUST IMAGES. THEY WERE MEMORIES
I APOLOGIZE IF YOU FEEL WE INTRUDED


ROBOT, I'M JUST WONDERING
WHY I FELT SUCH A BURNING NEED TO MARCH DOWN MEMORY LANE MUCH LESS NARRATE THE WHOLE THING
IT FELT LIKE I DRANK TOO MUCH
AND VOMITING UP MY LIFE STORY WAS THE ONLY WAY TO RELIEVE IT
PERHAPS THE AARAAI VENOM AFFECTS YOUR SPECIES IN A CURIOUS MANNER? I CANNOT SAY FOR CERTAIN
I ONLY KNOW YOU RAISED MORE QUESTIONS FOR US THAN YOU ANSWERED
sunghe OKAY FIRE AT WILL
EXCUSE ME?
GO AHEAD ASK
IN YOUR DEBRIEFING YOU SAID YOU WERE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE HOW COULD THIS BE TRUE?
THAT ONE YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK YOUR EMPEROR Y KNOW CHARON ?
SOMEHOW, HIS PEOPLE FIGURED OUT HOW TO PUNCH A HOLE BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, OR WHATEVER
THAT'S HOW THEY SNATCHED ME PLUS A HUNDRED OTHER FOLKS FROM DIFFERENT PLANETS ON MY SIDE
BUT YOU SPEAK THE NEGATION TONGUE ?
YEAH, ALL OF US BACK ON THE PRISON WORLD WOKE UP SPEAKING IT MUST'VE BEEN PART OF THE ABDUCTION PROCESS

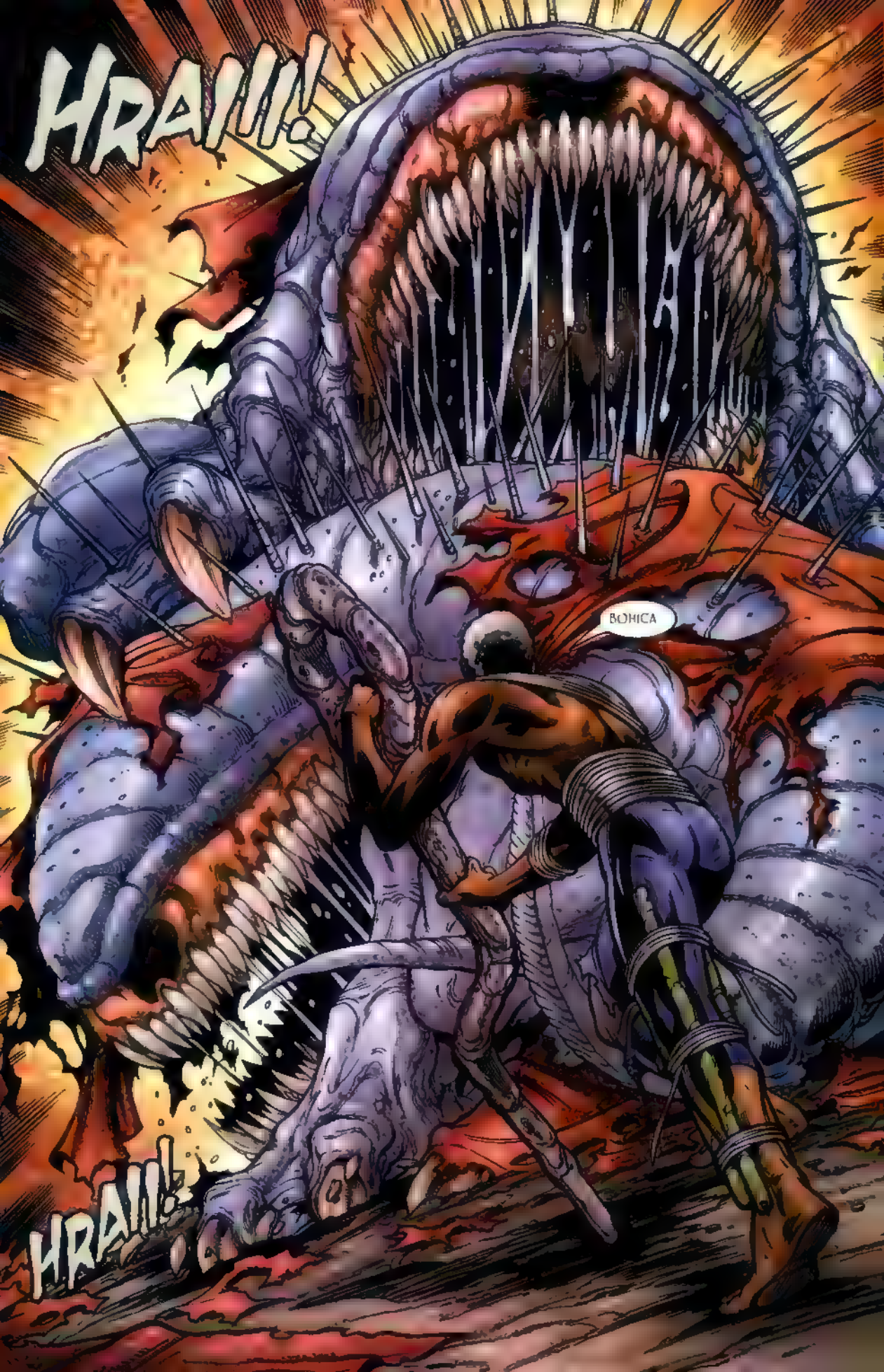
SAY THIS ISN'T EXACTLY THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE. IS IT?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S A NEGATION OUTPOST ANYWHERE NEARBY EITHER
WHY DID THAT AVARINGER GUY SEND US HERE?
I DO NOT KNOW. BUT YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST OFF-WORLDER TO APPEAR AMONG US
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?
MOST FELL VICTIM TO THE AARAI BEFORE WE COULD RESCUE THEM. A FEW LIVED AMONG US, AND IN TIME THEY DIED OF OLD AGE
GREAT SO I'M STUCK
WE SAW IMAGES OF THIS ONE. WHO IS SHE?
ONE OF MY FELLOW JAIL BIRDS. EVINLEA. SHE'S FROM A RACE THAT WOULD SEEM LIKE GODS TO YOU AND ME
I THOUGHT HE WAS SMARTER THAN THIS

WHY HAVEN'T THEY *GATED* HIM YET?
UNLESS
UNLESS THE DEVIOUS SON OF A *GOL'CHO* IS TRYING TO TRADE *HIS* WORLD FOR *OURS*
Rrrr?
I KNOW, GUL.IT I'M SCARED, *TOO* BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE THING FOR US TO *DO*

AND WHAT OF THIS ONE? WAS HE YOUR COMPANION, AS WELL?
THAT PLACE LOOKS SPECIAL. WHAT'S IN THERE?
THAT IS A PERSONAL MATTER. I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.
SURE. NO PROBLEM.
YOU PEOPLE DID SAVE MY LIFE, AFTER ALL.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU HAVE GOTTA BE THE NICEST, MOST DECENT SPECIES I'VE ENCOUNTERED IN THIS CRAZY UNIVERSE.
IN FACT, I KEEP WONDERING HOW SUCH NICE FOLKS MANAGED TO FIGHT OFF THOSE MONSTERS.
Ah, FORGET IT. I'M JUST GLAD YOU DID.
HEY, I DON'T MEAN TO BE RUDE, BUT I SHOULD REALLY GET SOME MORE SLEEP, OKAY?

rattle
rattle
rattle
rattle
NO OBREGONKA NE IT DOES NOT WORK
IT HAS NOT IN MANY MANY CYCLES

OH, YEAH. AND I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU DIDN'T HAD TO FIB ABOUT IT. I MEAN NOBODY LOVES A MIND READER RIGHT?
BUT I'M USED TO IT FROM EVERYONE. SO WE'RE COOL, OKAY?
WE WOULD HAVE LIKED YOU TO ANSWER A FEW MORE QUESTIONS BUT PERHAPS IT IS JUST AS WELL THIS WAY
WE HAVE BEEN DEBATING IF YOUR CLAIM OF ORIGIN IN A SEPARATE UNIVERSE IS TRUE
IF SO... IT MAY NOT EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO SAVE YOU
BUT WHAT IF IT IS?
SOING
SHIFF
SHEFF
SHRPP
HRRR...


HRAIII!
BOHICA
HRAII!

AIIEEE!
GYOWWRRL!
HRAA!!!
?
GYOWWRRRL!
Wh ?
KAINE! COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO KEEP BREATHING!

KOMPTIN--?!
WHAT THE HELL
SHUT UP AND LISTEN!
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU SAID TO THEM AND THEN YOU'RE GOING TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I *TELL* YOU TO!
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOU'VE ALREADY *DOOMED* EVERY LIVING THING ON YOUR *HOMEWORLD!*
CHARON HELP YOU IF YOU'VE DOOMED *MINE!*

Storytellers

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

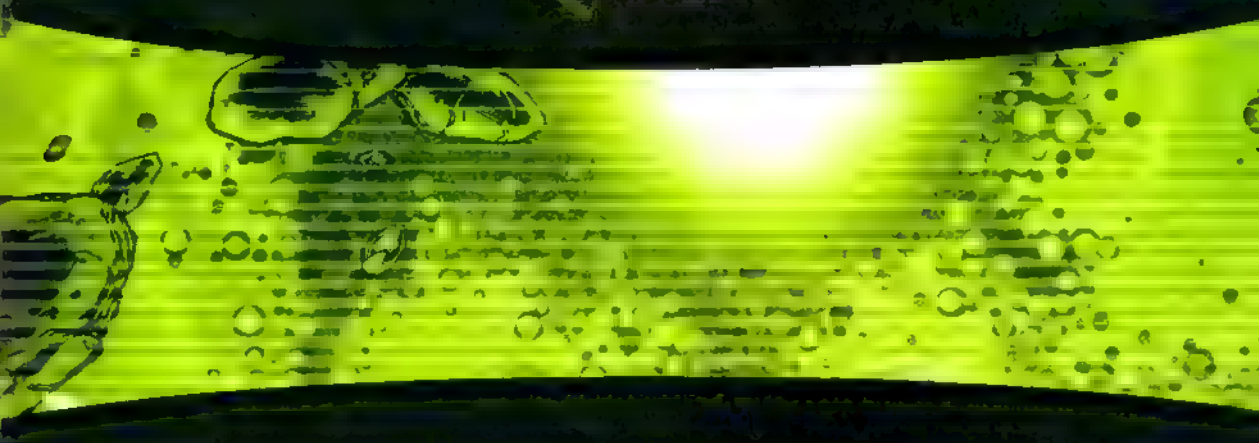
PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

JAMES ROCHELLE
COLORIST

TROY PETERI
LETTERER

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped along with Kaine wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Banished to the dreaded planet Karakorum, Kaine has discovered that its seemingly peaceful inhabitants are actually voracious, shape-changing beasts. Just as he was about to be devoured by these fearsome karaki, Kaine was rescued by Komptin and his massive "dog", Gullit. It seems Kaine's implacable enemy needs the wily human alive if he's to have any chance of escaping this quarantined planet of punishment...

Negation® Vol. 1 Issue 16. APRIL 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. **Negation®**, **CrossGen®**, **CrossGen Comics®**, **CrossGeneration®**, **CrossGeneration Comics®** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. The **CG Entertainment logo™** and all prominent **Negation®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2002 CrossGeneration Comics Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE

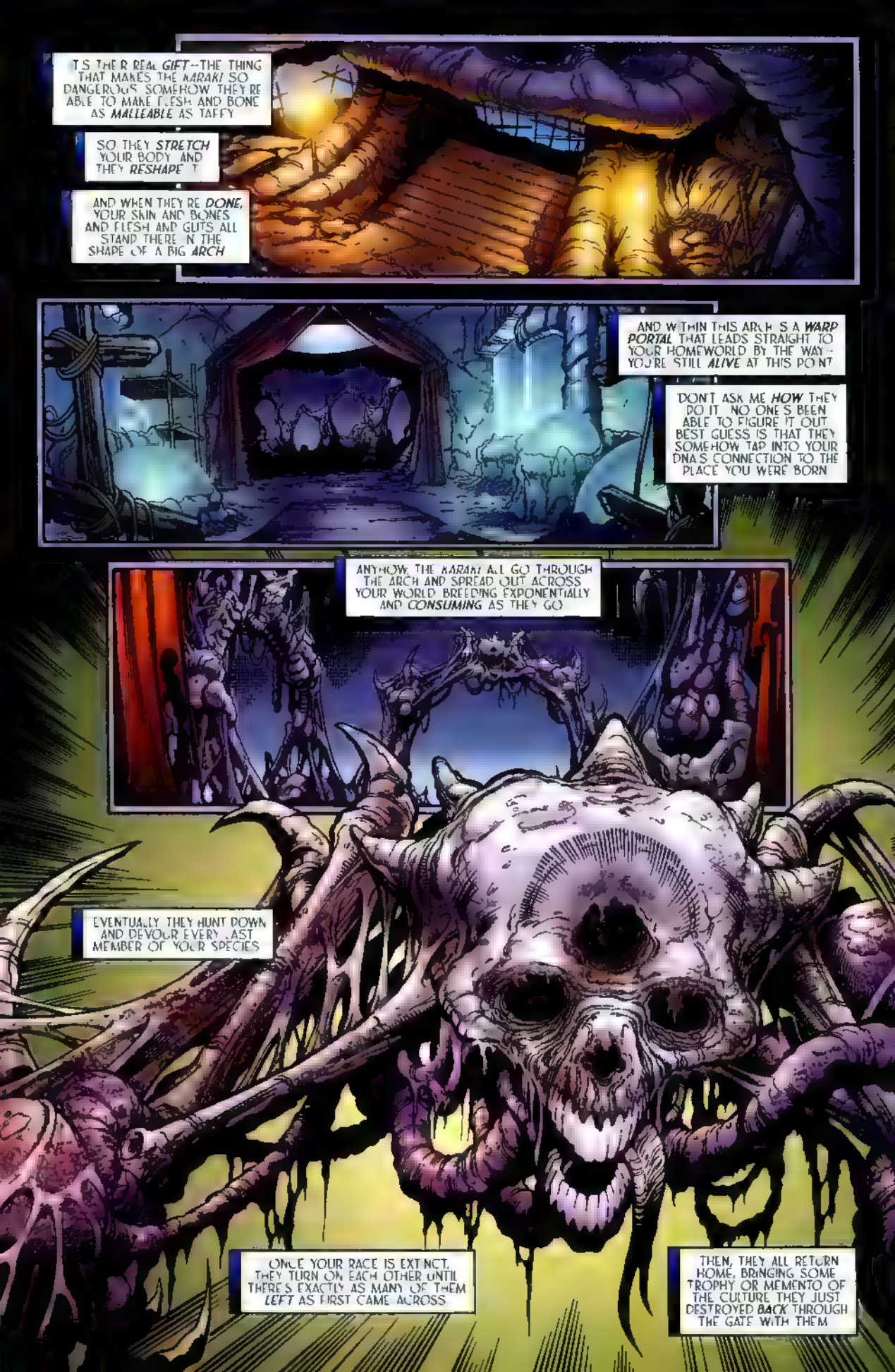
I SWEAR I DIDN'T TELL THEM A THING ABOUT YOUR HOME PLANET!
I MEAN, COME ON! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOU'RE FROM!

TRUE
ALTHOUGH YOU *COULD'VE* LOOKED IT UP IN THE SHIP YOU STOLE FROM ME
YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE MUCH TROUBLE LOCATING THE EMPEROR'S *THRONEWORLD*.
WHY ARE YOU SO *WORRIED* ABOUT WHAT I TOLD THE BUTT MONSTERS, *ANYWAY?!*
SURE THEY'RE SCARY ONE ON ONE, BUT IT'S *NOT* LIKELY THEY HAVE STARSHIPS TO GO INVADE *PLANET KOMPTIN*.
KALIMA
I COME FROM KALIMA
YOU REALLY *DON'T KNOW* WHAT IT IS YOU WERE DEALING WITH DOWN IN THAT VILLAGE, *DO* YOU?
SHOULD I?
RRRRRRR
DOWN, BOY.

SO, I ASSUME SINCE I'M STILL *ALIVE* THAT YOU *NEED* ME FOR SOMETHING. PROBABLY TO HELP FIND A WAY *OFF* THIS ROCK
HOW'M I *DOING* SO FAR?
KEEP GOING
WELL, IF YOU EXPECT ME TO BE OF ANY USE TO EITHER OF US, YOU'D BETTER SHARE SOME *INTEL*
THERE ARE *SIX* WORLDS IN THE ENTIRE NEGATION EMPIRE THAT ARE *QUARANTINED* KARAKORUM WAS THE *FIRST*

AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THIS PLANET. THE ONES WHO NURSED YOU BACK TO HEALTH, KAINE. THE KARAKI
THE KARAKI LEAD A DOUBLE LIFE, AS YOU'VE DISCOVERED.
AROUND THE VILLAGE, THEY LOOK LIKE KINDLY BIPEDS. BUT IT'S ALL A SHAM.
IN THE FIELD, ON A HUNT, THEY SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS.

WHAT *USED* TO HAPPEN BEFORE THE PLANET WAS SEALED OFF, WAS THAT SOME POOR UNSUSPECTING *PILOT* WOULD SET DOWN HERE WITH NO IDEA WHAT AWAITED HIM
A FEW *KARAKI* WOULD HUNT HIM DOWN, AND *STING* HIM WITH A SPECIAL ORGAN THAT ABSORBS *MEMORIES* AND *IMAGES* FROM THE VICTIM'S MIND
HE'D WAKE UP IN THEIR VILLAGE, WITH ALL THE *KARAKI*, NOW IN THEIR HUMANOID FORM, SAYING THEY'D *RESCUED* HIM FROM THOSE AWFUL CREATURES
THE *KARAKI* WOULD GAIN HIS *TRUST* WITH THEIR HOSPITALITY, ALL THE WHILE ASKING *QUESTIONS* TO FILL OUT THE DETAILS ABOUT THE PILOT'S SPECIES AND HIS HOMEWORLD
ONCE THE *KARAKI* HAVE ENOUGH INFORMATION, THEY DECIDE IF IT'S WORTH RISKING AN INVASION. THEY ALMOST *ALWAYS* OPT TO INVADE
THAT'S WHEN THINGS GET *REAL* INTERESTING
FIRST THE *KARAKI* SWITCH BACK TO *HUNTING MODE* WHICH COMES AS A BIT OF A *SHOCK* TO THEIR HONORED GUEST
THEN THEY *GATE* THE PILOT
WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT *MEAN?*
IT DID TO *ME*


IT'S THEIR REAL GIFT--THE THING THAT MAKES THE KARAKI SO DANGEROUS. SOMEHOW THEY'RE ABLE TO MAKE FLESH AND BONE AS MALLEABLE AS TAFFY
SO THEY STRETCH YOUR BODY AND THEY RESHAPE IT
AND WHEN THEY'RE DONE, YOUR SKIN AND BONES AND FLESH AND GUTS ALL STAND THERE IN THE SHAPE OF A BIG ARCH
AND WITHIN THIS ARCH IS A WARP PORTAL THAT LEADS STRAIGHT TO YOUR HOMEWORLD. BY THE WAY-- YOU'RE STILL ALIVE AT THIS POINT
DON'T ASK ME HOW THEY DO IT. NO ONE'S BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE IT OUT. BEST GUESS IS THAT THEY SOMEHOW TAP INTO YOUR DNA'S CONNECTION TO THE PLACE YOU WERE BORN
ANYHOW, THE KARAKI ALL GO THROUGH THE ARCH AND SPREAD OUT ACROSS YOUR WORLD, BREEDING EXPONENTIALLY AND CONSUMING AS THEY GO
EVENTUALLY THEY HUNT DOWN AND DEVOUR EVERY LAST MEMBER OF YOUR SPECIES
ONCE YOUR RACE IS EXTINCT, THEY TURN ON EACH OTHER UNTIL THERE'S EXACTLY AS MANY OF THEM LEFT AS FIRST CAME ACROSS
THEN, THEY ALL RETURN HOME, BRINGING SOME TROPHY OR MEMENTO OF THE CULTURE THEY JUST DESTROYED BACK THROUGH THE GATE WITH THEM

YOU CAN SEE WHY THE EMPEROR FINALLY ERECTED A FORCE FIELD AROUND THIS PLANET. SOMEONE MAKES AN UNSCHEDULED VISIT HERE, NEXT THING YOU KNOW A WHOLE POPULATION GOES MISSING
CHARON SENDS PEOPLE HERE SOMETIMES, BUT ONLY AS THE ULTIMATE PUNISHMENT--A JUDGMENT NOT JUST AGAINST YOU, BUT AGAINST YOUR WHOLE SPECIES
SO THAT'S WHY THE LAWBRINGER SENT US HERE
ONLY PART I DON'T GET IS HE BANISHES YOU TO THE PLANET OF THE DOOMSDAY ALIENS, AND THEN HE SENDS YOUR DOG ?!
IS THAT SOME KIND OF LAWBRINGER JOKE ?
GULLIT WAS ABOARD MY SHIP WHEN YOU CRASHED IT INTO THE PALACE! QZTR MUST'VE SENT HIM AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT!
AND WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT IT, ANYWAY?! WE'D BOTH BE DEAD BY NOW IF NOT FOR GULLIT!
AT EASE! I WAS JUST CURIOUS!
Heh YOU ARE THE REASON HE WAS ON MY SHIP IN THE FIRST PLACE
AFTER YOU SLIPPED THROUGH MY GRASP ON SENKEM, I DECIDED THAT THE NEXT TIME I SAW YOU, MY KALIMAN RETRIEVER WOULD BE THERE
AND ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS SAY, FETCH
RRRRRRR
Y'KNOW YOU'VE MADE THIS THING BETWEEN US WAY TOO PERSONAL
I'M NOT GOING TO CHIT-CHAT WITH YOU, PRISONER KAINE. THE ONLY THING WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IS GETTING OFF KARAKORUM

WHEN THEY WERE NURSING ME BACK TO HEALTH AND PUMPING ME FOR INFORMATION, ONE OF THE AARAAI WAS HOLDING A LITTLE GIZMO...
IT DIDN'T MATCH ANY OF THE OTHER TECHNOLOGY I SAW THERE. NOT THAT THERE WAS MUCH TECH TO SPEAK OF.
NOW I'M THINKING MAYBE IT WAS ONE OF THOSE TROPHIES YOU MENTIONED A SOUVENIR FROM A DEAD WORLD.
HOW MANY PLANETS DID THEY WIPE OUT BEFORE CHARON DECIDED TO BOTTLE UP THE GENIE?
SEVENTY THREE
Huh. THAT MANY TROPHIES YOU'D WANT A SPECIAL PLACE TO KEEP THEM ALL.
WHAT?
I'VE SEEN THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE, RAINE. YOU'VE FIGURED OUT SOMETHING, HAVEN'T YOU?
WHILE I WAS THERE, GUEST, I SAW A CERTAIN HUT DOWN IN THAT VILLAGE THAT LOOKED VERY SPECIAL.
I'M GUESSING IT'S A MUSEUM, FILLED WITH THE LEFTOVERS OF AT LEAST SEVENTY THREE CULTURES THAT HAVE GONE BOOTS UP.
IF JUST ONE ITEM IN THERE IS A COMMUNICATOR

WHAT WE NEED TO DO WON'T BE TOO COMPLICATED, BUT IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF *NERVE*. NOT THAT WE HAVE MANY *ALTERNATIVES* AT THIS POINT.
WE NEED TO DRAW THEM *AWAY* FROM THAT MUSEUM HUT, PREFERABLY OUT OF THE VILLAGE COMPLETELY. SO WE NEED TO WAIT UNTIL THEY WAKE UP.
THEN YOU TAKE YOUR *DOG* TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE VILLAGE AND GET THEM TO CHASE AFTER YOU.
SORRY TO STICK YOU WITH *RABBIT DUTY*, BUT YOU TWO ARE FASTER AND TOUGHER THAN I AM SO YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY *SURVIVE* THE EXPERIENCE.
HRAM!
HRAM!
HRAM!
WITH ANY LUCK YOU'LL BUY ME ENOUGH TIME TO *SEARCH* THAT HUT, TOP TO BOTTOM.

ONCE YOU SHAKE YOUR PURSUIT, WE'LL MEET AWAY FROM THE VILLAGE
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T LEAD THE BUTT MONSTERS ANYWHERE *NEAR* OUR RENDEZVOUS POINT, OKAY?

K'Z'K
NEGATION COMMWEB ACCESSED INPUT SECURITY CODE
TRY K Q-SEVEN-SEVEN-FOUR

KOMPTIN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU *DOING* HERE?

MAKING SURE YOU DIDN'T COME BACK WITH SOMETHING LIKE *THIS* IN YOUR HAND

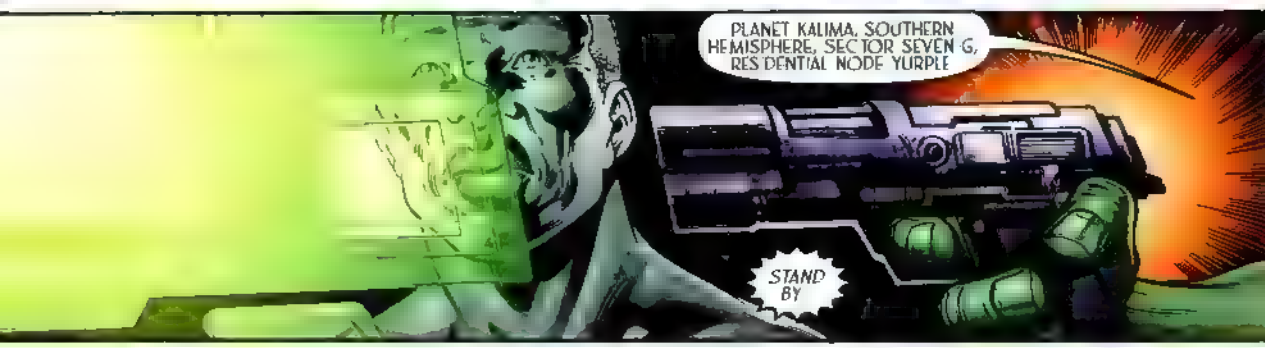
YOU DIDN'T THINK I'D ACTUALLY *TRUST* YOU TO PICK THROUGH THIS STASH ALL BY *YOURSELF?*

BUT WHO'S LOOKING AFTER THE *DOG?*

GULLIT WILL BE *FINE*

YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* HOW SMART HE IS, OR WHAT IT WOULD *TAKE* TO BRING HIM DOWN

A Q SEVEN SEVEN FOUR
OKAY I *THINK* THAT'S THE RIGHT SEQUENCE WHAT'S IT SUPPOSED TO
TING
SECURITY CODE ACCEPTED INPUT CONTACT REQUEST


PLANET KALIMA, SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE, SECTOR SEVEN G, RESIDENTIAL NODE YURPLE
STAND BY

SON? YOU'RE BARELY COMING IN WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?
I'M ON KARAKORUM, MOTHER LISTEN CLOSELY, BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE MUCH T ME I NEED YOU TO GET IN TOUCH WITH MY OLD C.O., PROCONSUL *XAGNIT*--
YOU'VE BEEN SENTENCED TO *KARAKORUM?!* BLOOD OF OUR ANCESTORS KOMPTIN, YOU'VE KILLED US ALL!
NOT IF YOU DO AS I SAY *RIGHT NOW!* XAGNIT IS IN COMMAND OF A *TELEPORT RELAY* STATION! HE CAN PORT ME OUT OF HERE BUT WE HAVE TO COMM HIM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
SQUARK
PRIORITY OVERRIDE SIGNAL TRANSFER
MOTHER ?!

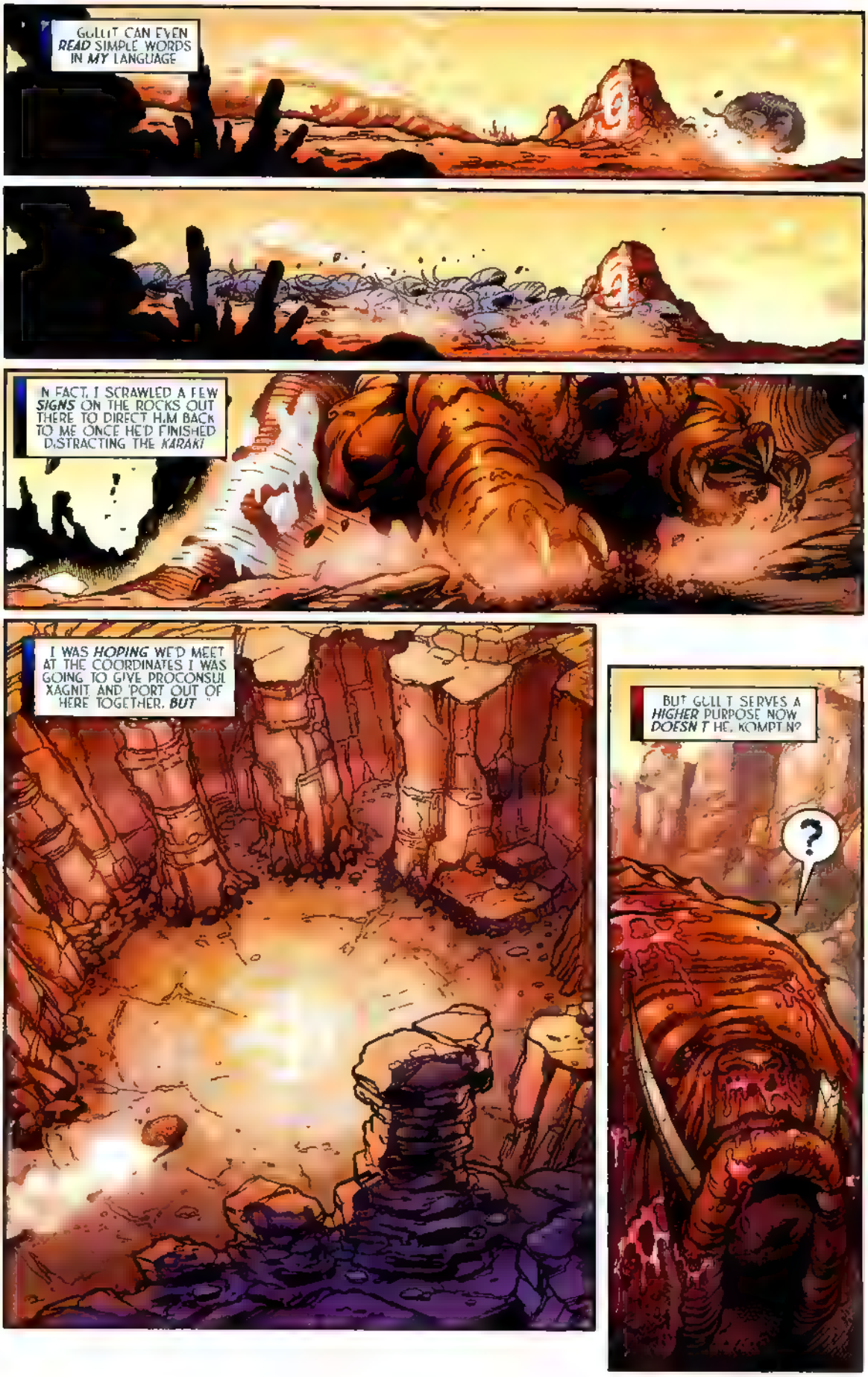
HELLO, KOMPTIN I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT TRY SOME THING LIKE THIS SO I HAD THE COMMWEB BOUNCE ANY TRANSMISSION WITH YOUR CODE TO ME
GENERAL KRYZORR !
YES, CONVICT THE EMPEROR INFORMED ME THAT QZTR SENT YOU TO KARAKORUM HE'S ALLOWING THAT JUDGMENT TO STAND
I'M AFRAID THERE WON'T BE ANY REPRIEVES OR LAST MINUTE RESCUES

END TRANSMISSION
THIS. THIS CANNOT BE HAPPENING THIS CAN'T

I CAN'T JUST LET THEM USE ME LIKE THIS !

I WILL NOT CAUSE MY PEOPLES EXTINCTION--!
K-GHK
KOMPTIN, NO!

I STILL NEED YOU, MAN! THERE STILL MIGHT BE A WAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ZARK
YOU SAID BEFORE THAT I HAD ENDANGERED EVERY LIVING THING ON MY HOME-WORLD"
LATER, YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE THE KARAKI ONLY GO AFTER THE SPECIES THEY'VE, um, GATED
WHICH ONE IS IT?
THEY ONLY EXTERMINATE THAT ONE LIFE FORM. BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF THE FISH AND BIRDS AND VERMIN ARE LEFT ALIVE ?
I'M GUESSING FROM ALL THE JUNK IN HERE THAT THEY ONLY GO AFTER INTELLIGENT SPECIES RIGHT?
YES! SO WHAT IS YOUR POINT?!
AN ADULT KALIMAN RETRIEVER CAN MEMORIZE OVER A THOUSAND VERBAL COMMANDS.
THEY SPEAK TO EACH OTHER IN A LANGUAGE OF SCENTS WITH BASIC GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX
YOU SAID YOUR DOG IS SMART REAL SMART
HOW SMART ?


GULLIT CAN EVEN *READ* SIMPLE WORDS IN *MY* LANGUAGE
IN FACT, I SCRAWLED A FEW *SIGNS* ON THE ROCKS OUT THERE TO DIRECT HIM BACK TO ME ONCE HE'D FINISHED DISTRACTING THE *KARAKI*
I WAS *HOPING* WE'D MEET AT THE COORDINATES I WAS GOING TO GIVE PROCONSUL XAGNIT AND PORT OUT OF HERE TOGETHER. *BUT* "
BUT GULLIT SERVES A *HIGHER* PURPOSE NOW *DOESN'T* HE, KOMPTON?
?

SHKT
SHKT
SHKT
SHKT
HRAIN!
HRAIN!
THEY'LL SENSE HIS INTELLIGENCE WHEN THEY TAKE HIM DOWN WITH THOSE PSYCHIC STINGERS OF THEIRS. RIGHT?
JUST SHUT UP
GYARRKK
THWIP
THWIK
Ah, FORGIVE ME
HE'S NOT FEELING ANY PAIN NOW

THE WORST IS OVER FOR YOUR DOG
OOOHHHMMM
OVER ? HAVEN'T YOU BEEN PAYING ATTENTION ?!
THE WORST IS JUST BEGINNING !

A WARP GATE TEARING SPACE OPEN INSIDE YOU
FWASH
IMAGINE FEELING YOUR MEAT AND BONES FLOW LIKE PLASTEEL
GYOOWRR!
AND THROUGH IT ALL YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
THINK ABOUT IT, KAINE. THEN THINK ABOUT THE FACT
THAT YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR
USEFULNESS

Negation World A24767
Local Name: Kalima
Status: Negation member in good standing. Last invaded five hundred and ten standard years ago.
GOOD POOCHIE MOMMY LOVES YOU
FWOSH
HRAH!
HRAH!
RUN! THEY'RE KARAK!!
POOCHIE BABY CLOSE YOUR EYES
HRAH!
?
SNAPT
HRAH!
THEY'RE NOT HERE FOR US ?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE AFTER THE
POOCHIE ?

KRAK!
KRAK!
KAAAINNNE--?!

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD — WRITER

PAUL PELLETIER — PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS — INKER

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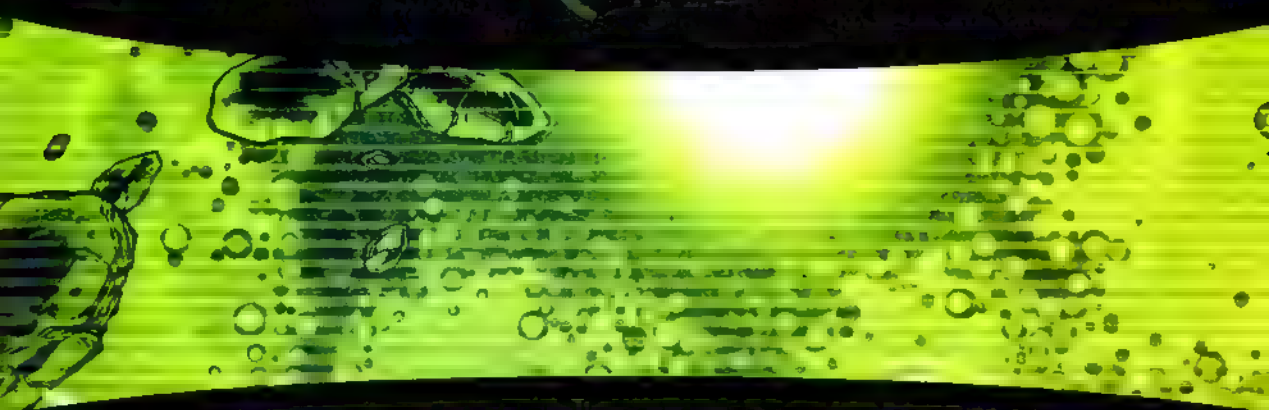

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On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the pirate Mercer Drake and the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the Atlantean Corrin and the godlike Evinlea, were inherently powerful. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation prison warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Forced to withdraw from the Negation Throneworld without Kaine, the escapees rush to a rendezvous point, hoping to meet up with other survivors from their daring raid against Charon Himself. Their loss of Kaine is tempered by the knowledge that they rescued baby Memi from the clutches of the Negation, along with a mysterious newcomer, Gammid of Atlantis, whose power and history will have a profound impact upon their lives...

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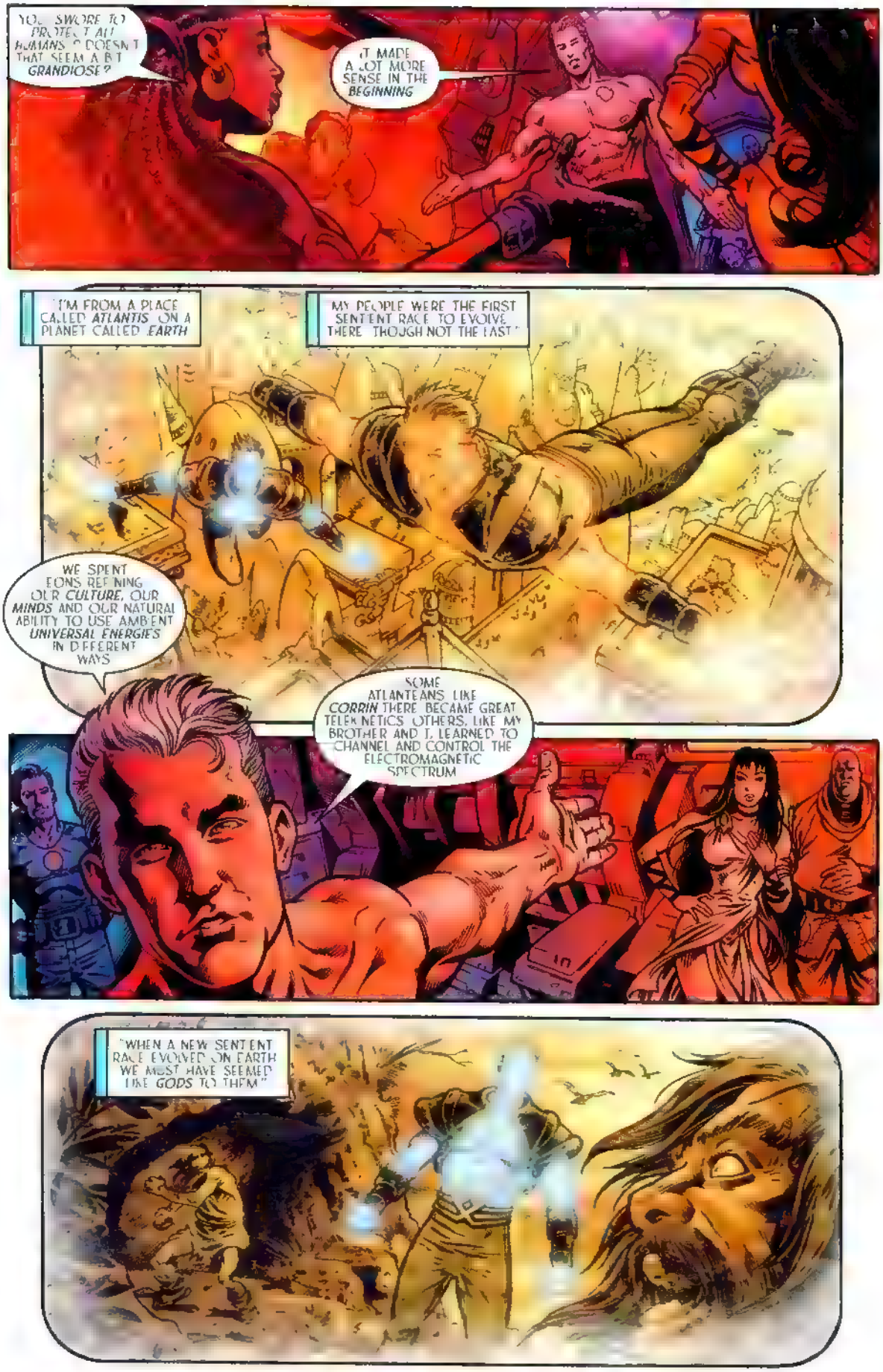
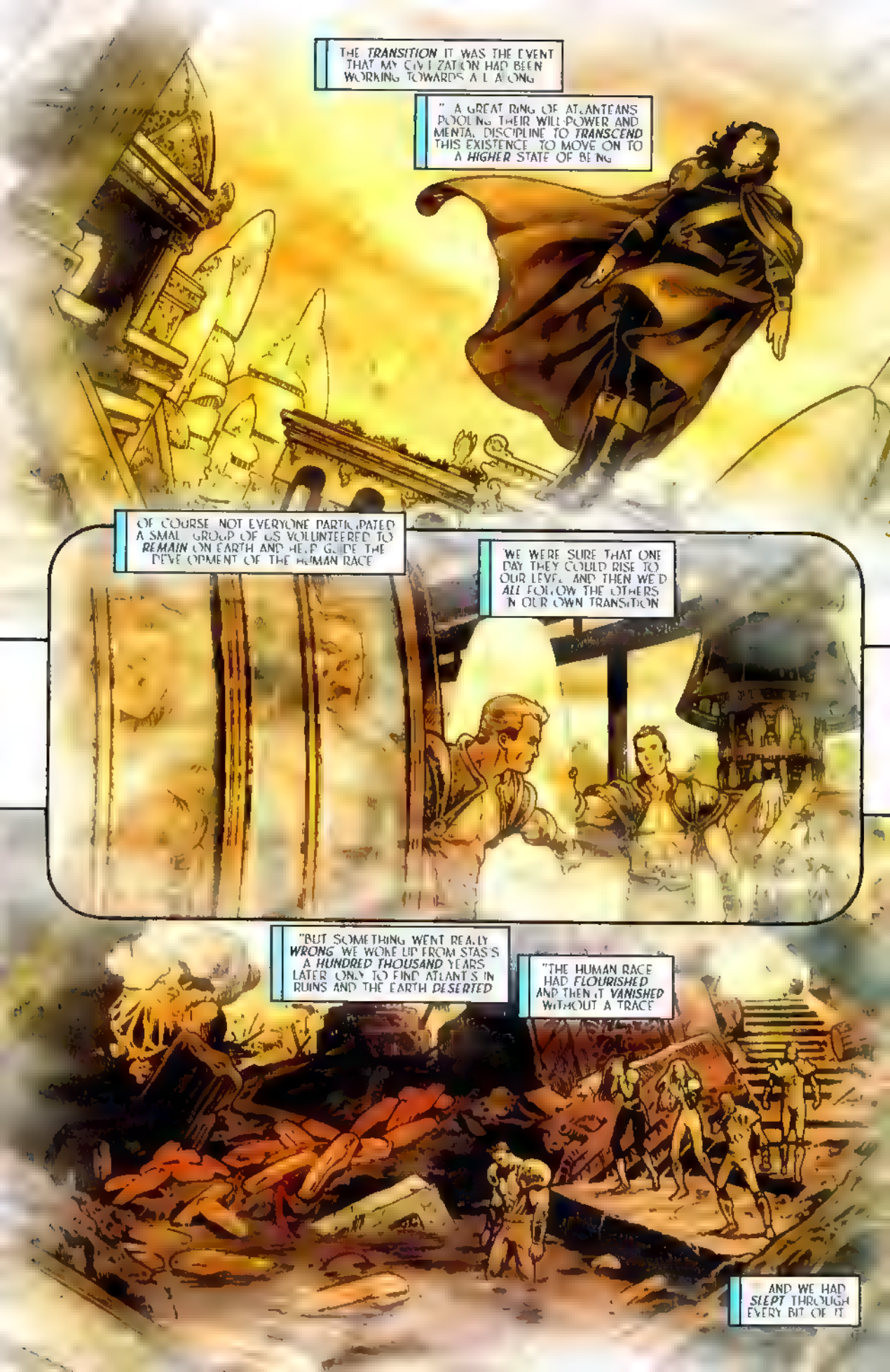
HOW LONG UNTIL WE REACH THE RENDEZVOUS COORDINATES?
WELL, GAMMA, WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND A WAY TO TELL YOU

WE'RE ALREADY HERE
BUT THERE'S NOBODY OUT THERE!
WHERE ARE THE AUSTRALIANS?!
THAT WAS THE PLAN, WASN'T IT? AFTER YOU RESCUED ME FROM THE EMPEROR, EVERYONE WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLE WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HERE
THAT IS WHAT YOU AGREED TO, RIGHT?
PLEASE TELL ME I'M WRONG

THAT WAS THE PLAN, SAMAKAR KNEW THESE COORDINATES ALL THE AUSTRALIANS D.D.
IF NONE OF THEM MADE IT HERE
IT SEEMS INEVITABLE FOR THOSE WHO DEFY THE NEGATION THAT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE WE HOLD DEAR IS TAKEN FROM US
GAMMID, AS ONE WHO HAS LOST HIS ENTIRE CIVILIZATION TO THEM, I SHARE YOUR GRIEF
I WONDER IF YOU CAN DID YOUR PEOPLE DIE BECAUSE OF YOU?
GAMMID, THEY DIDN'T
NO. CORRIN HEAR ME OUT YOU'RE ATLANTEAN, LIKE ME. YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN ANYONE
IT WAS MY SWORN DUTY TO PROTECT SAMAKAR AND HER PEOPLE TO PROTECT ALL HUMANS
INSTEAD, EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM DIED TO SAVE ME ?!
I CAN'T IMAGINE A GREATER FAILURE


YOU SWORE TO PROTECT ALL HUMANS? DOESN'T THAT SEEM A BIT GRANDIOSE?
IT MADE A LOT MORE SENSE IN THE BEGINNING
I'M FROM A PLACE CALLED ATLANTIS ON A PLANET CALLED EARTH
MY PEOPLE WERE THE FIRST SENTIENT RACE TO EVOLVE THERE THOUGH NOT THE LAST
WE SPENT EONS REFINING OUR CULTURE, OUR MINDS AND OUR NATURAL ABILITY TO USE AMBIENT UNIVERSAL ENERGIES IN DIFFERENT WAYS
SOME ATLANTEANS LIKE CORRIN THERE BECAME GREAT TELEKINETICS OTHERS, LIKE MY BROTHER AND I, LEARNED TO CHANNEL AND CONTROL THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM
"WHEN A NEW SENTIENT RACE EVOLVED ON EARTH WE MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE GODS TO THEM"

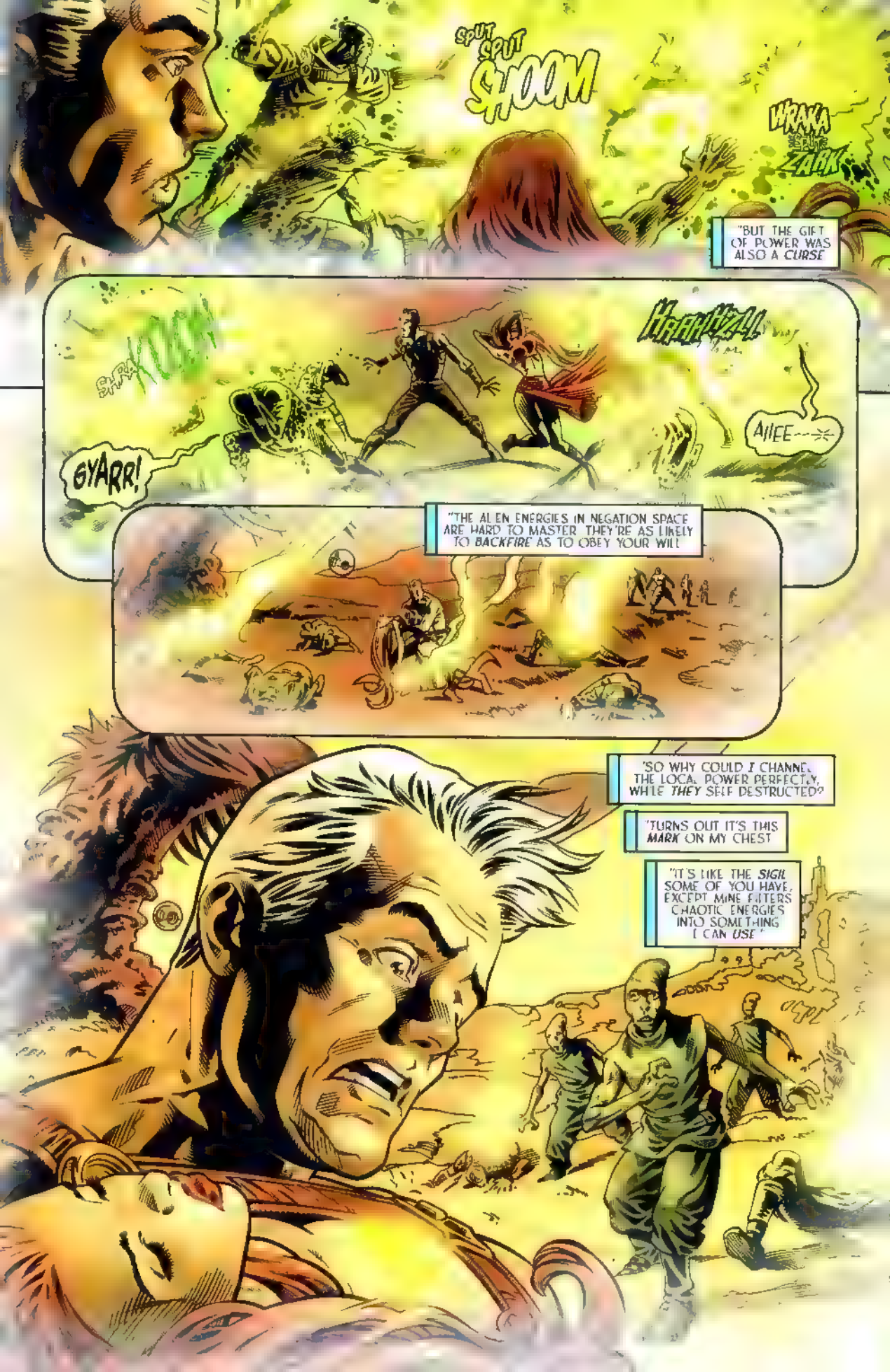
WAIT A MINUTE... ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT HUMANKIND *BEGAN* ON THIS *EARTH* PLACE?
BECAUSE, YOU KNOW... MOST OF *US* ARE HUMAN... AND WE'VE NEVER *HEARD* OF YOUR HOMEWORLD!
"EARTH." THAT WAS THE NAME OF THE PLANET I SAW THROUGH THE DIMENSIONAL GATE ON BOARD GENERAL MORQUADE'S SHIP.
A SINGULARLY *UNIMPRESSIVE* GLOBE. SURELY JUST A MINOR WORK OF ONE OF MY BRETHREN.
...COME AGAIN?
MY PEOPLE *CREATED* THE STARS AND PLANETS, INCLUDING *YOURS*.
THERE'S A *REASON* WE ARE KNOWN AS *THE FIRST*.
GAMMA'S TELLING THE *TRUTH* ABOUT ATLANTIS *AND* THE HUMANS I KNOW I WAS THERE, TOO.
WONDERFUL. A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM OUR RESIDENT *LUNATIC*.
AND WHAT EXACTLY QUALIFIES AS *CRAZY* IN *THIS* UNIVERSE? SEEMS LIKE NOTHING'S BEEN SANE SINCE THE *GREAT TRANSITION*.
THE *WHAT*?

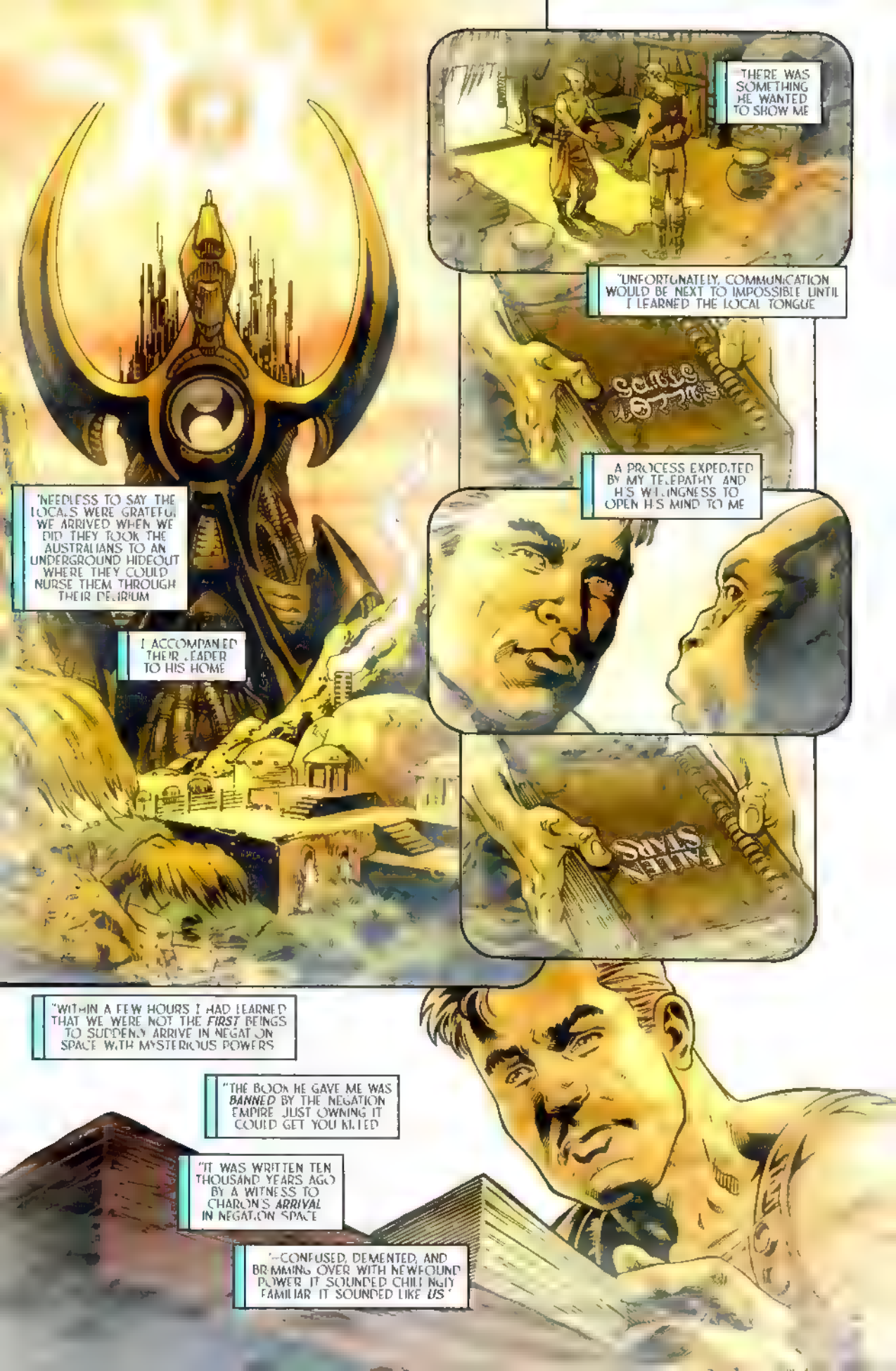

THE *TRANSITION*. IT WAS THE EVENT THAT MY CIVILIZATION HAD BEEN WORKING TOWARDS ALL ALONG.
"A GREAT RING OF ATLANTEANS POOLING THEIR WILL-POWER AND MENTAL DISCIPLINE TO *TRANSCEND* THIS EXISTENCE. TO MOVE ON TO A *HIGHER* STATE OF BEING.
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE PARTICIPATED. A SMALL GROUP OF US VOLUNTEERED TO *REMAIN* ON EARTH AND HELP GUIDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HUMAN RACE.
WE WERE SURE THAT ONE DAY THEY COULD RISE TO OUR LEVEL. AND THEN WE'D *ALL* FOLLOW THE OTHERS IN OUR OWN TRANSITION.
"BUT SOMETHING WENT REALLY *WRONG*. WE WOKE UP FROM STASIS A *HUNDRED THOUSAND* YEARS LATER. ONLY TO FIND ATLANTIS IN RUINS AND THE EARTH *DESERTED*.
"THE HUMAN RACE HAD *FLOURISHED* AND THEN IT *VANISHED* WITHOUT A TRACE.
AND WE HAD *SLEPT* THROUGH EVERY BIT OF IT.

WHAT DO YOU *MEAN*, THEY "*VANISHED*" ?
THE NEGATION SNATCHED YOU WHILE YOU WERE STILL IN STASIS. SO YOU DON'T HAVE *KNOWN*, BUT THE ENTIRE HUMAN RACE DISAPPEARED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH
TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOU, GAMMID! APPARENTLY THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF HUMANS EVEN IN *THIS* UNIVERSE
I'M ASSUMING *YOU* ALL DESCENDED FROM EARTH'S COLONIZATION OF SPACE WHICH WAS UNDER WAY FOR *CENTURIES* BEFORE THE GREAT DISAPPEARANCE
THE *BILLIONS* WHO WERE STILL LIVING ON EARTH ARE NOW GONE
MY COMPANIONS AND I COULD FIND NO HISTORICAL RECORD TO EXPLAIN *WHY*
"ACTUALLY, THERE WAS *ONE* GROUP OF HUMANS WHO DIDN'T DISAPPEAR WITH THE REST. YOU *MET* THEM ALREADY
SAMAKAR AND HER PEOPLE LIVED IN ISOLATION ON A CONTINENT CALLED *AUSTRALIA*
THEY REVEALED TO US THAT THE OTHER HUMANS HAD MECHANICALLY *RE-CREATED* THE SAME TRANSITION PROCESS THE ATLANTEANS UNDERWENT SO LONG BEFORE
"WE REPAIRED THE MECHANISM AND I VOLUNTEERED TO *CROSS OVER* WITH THEM. I WAS SAD TO PART WITH MY FRIENDS, BUT THIS WAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WHICH I'D WAITED ONE HUNDRED MILLENNIA
" TO ESCORT THE LAST OF THE HUMAN RACE TO A HIGHER PLANE OF EXISTENCE "

"OF COURSE, WE CAME TO *NEGATION SPACE* INSTEAD
I FOUND OUT LATER THAT THE WORLD WE ARRIVED ON WAS CALLED *VARUNA*
APPARENTLY, SOME OF THE LOCALS HAD A NASTY HABIT OF THINKING FOR THEMSELVES. IT EARNED THEM A DEATH SENTENCE FROM THE NEGATION GOVERNOR
THEIR TOKEN RESISTANCE WAS ALL BUT FORGOTTEN THE MOMENT *WE* MADE OUR ARRIVAL.

"I HAD EXPECTED TO STEP THROUGH THE GATE INTO A GLORIOUS LANDSCAPE OF LIGHT
" WELL I DID SEE A *LIGHT*
"THE OTHERS NEEDED A MINUTE BEFORE THEY COULD FIGHT BACK
"THEY WERE STRUGGLING TO COPE WITH THE NEW ENERGIES RIPPING THROUGH THEIR EVERY NERVE LIKE LIGHTNING· THE POWER OF *TRANSITION*
HAAHH HAAZZ
SPUT SPUT
SKZZ-SKZZ
"THEY HAD ARRIVED IN A REALM OF INHUMAN SUFFERING, BUT THEY NOW COMMANDED ABILITIES FAR *BEYOND* HUMAN

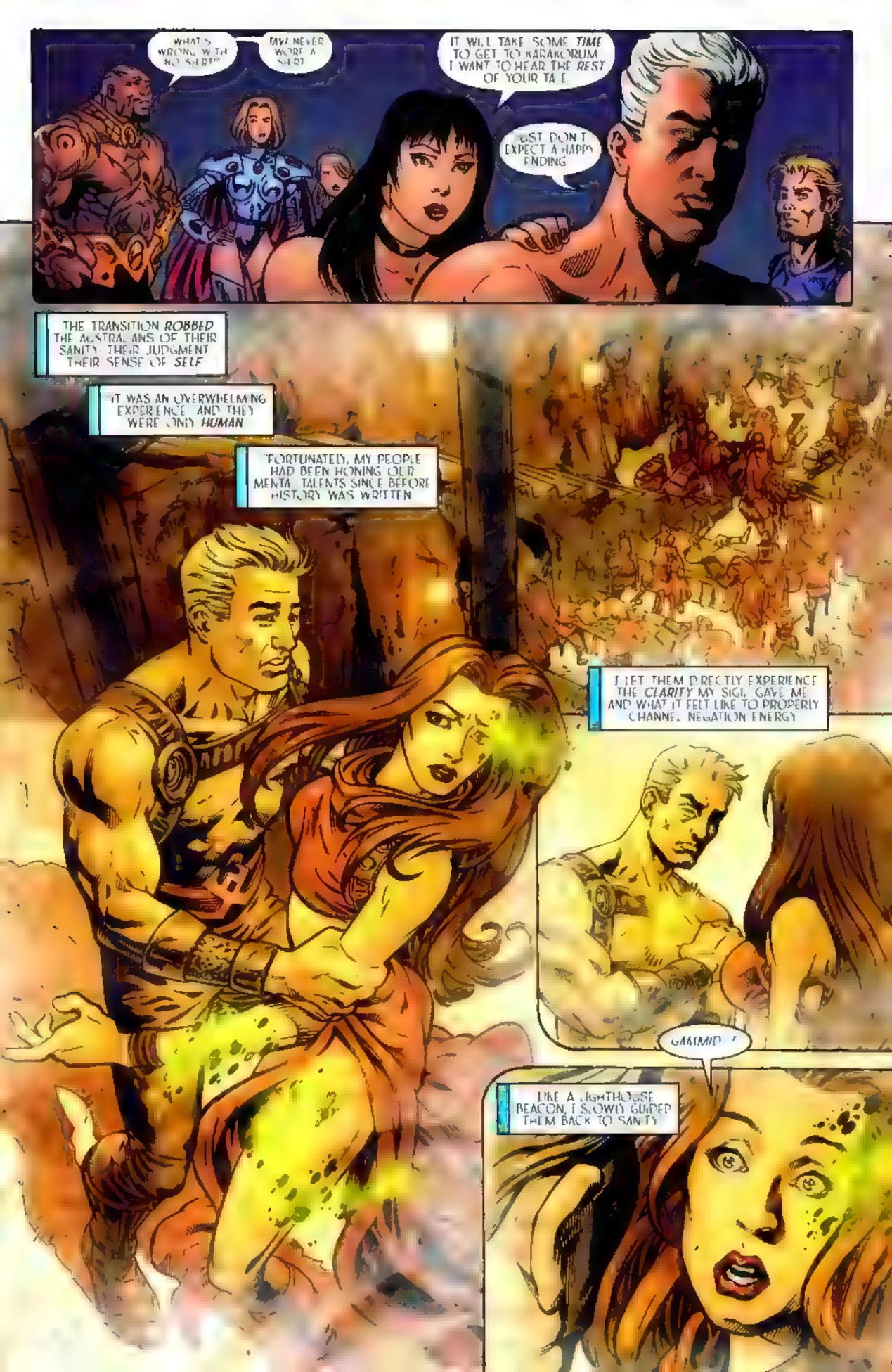

SPUT SPUT SHOOM
WRAKA ZARK
"BUT THE GIFT OF POWER WAS ALSO A CURSE
SHRAKOOM
HRAHHZLL
GYARR!
AIIEE--
"THE ALIEN ENERGIES IN NEGATION SPACE ARE HARD TO MASTER. THEY'RE AS LIKELY TO BACKFIRE AS TO OBEY YOUR WILL
"SO WHY COULD I CHANNEL THE LOCAL POWER PERFECTLY, WHILE THEY SELF DESTRUCTED?
"TURNS OUT IT'S THIS MARK ON MY CHEST
"IT'S LIKE THE SIGIL SOME OF YOU HAVE, EXCEPT MINE FILTERS CHAOTIC ENERGIES INTO SOMETHING I CAN USE"

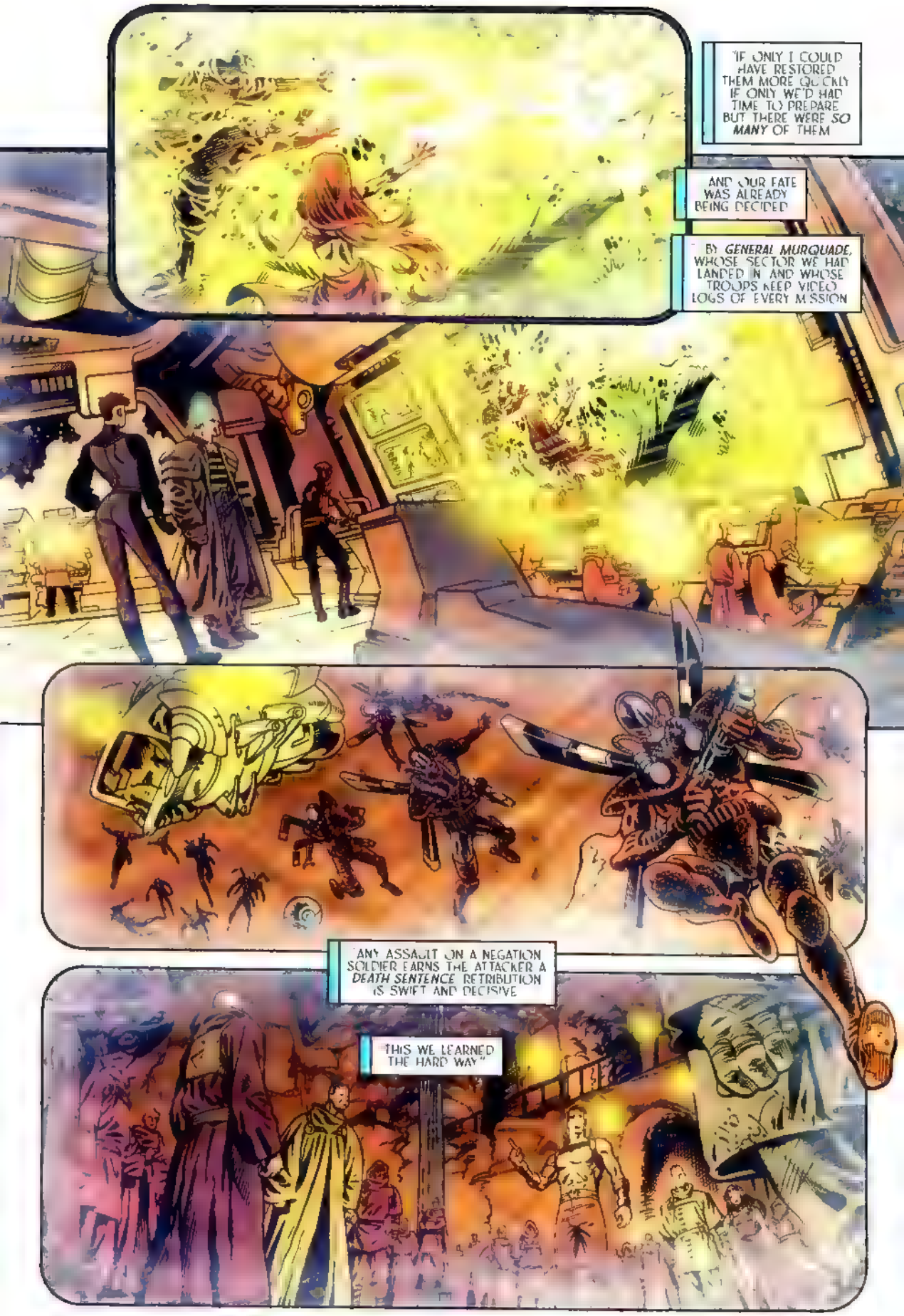

"NEEDLESS TO SAY THE LOCALS WERE GRATEFUL WE ARRIVED WHEN WE DID THEY TOOK THE AUSTRALIANS TO AN UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT WHERE THEY COULD NURSE THEM THROUGH THEIR DELIRIUM
I ACCOMPANIED THEIR LEADER TO HIS HOME
THERE WAS SOMETHING HE WANTED TO SHOW ME
"UNFORTUNATELY, COMMUNICATION WOULD BE NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL I LEARNED THE LOCAL TONGUE
A PROCESS EXPEDITED BY MY TELEPATHY AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO OPEN HIS MIND TO ME
"WITHIN A FEW HOURS I HAD LEARNED THAT WE WERE NOT THE *FIRST* BEINGS TO SUDDENLY ARRIVE IN NEGATION SPACE WITH MYSTERIOUS POWERS
"THE BOON HE GAVE ME WAS *BANNED* BY THE NEGATION EMPIRE JUST OWNING IT COULD GET YOU KILLED
"IT WAS WRITTEN TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO BY A WITNESS TO CHARON'S *ARRIVAL* IN NEGATION SPACE
"—CONFUSED, DEMENTED, AND BRIMMING OVER WITH NEWFOUND POWER. IT SOUNDED CHILLINGLY FAMILIAR. IT SOUNDED LIKE *US*."

SO, WHAT ARE YOU *SAYING*? THAT THE NEGATION EMPEROR CAME FROM *YOUR* UNIVERSE?
PERHAPS EVEN FROM YOUR *PEOPLE*?!
I'M NOT SURE FLUXOR
MAYBE
OR MAYBE HE CAME FROM SOME *OTHER* UNIVERSE ASIDE FROM THE TWO WE KNOW OF?
ALL OF THIS SPECULATION IS TERRIBLY INTERESTING, BUT WE'RE *WASTING TIME*. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO *DO* ABOUT SAVING *KAINE*?
SHE'S *RIGHT*. IF THE AUSTRALIANS AREN'T COMING, WE'LL HAVE TO MOUNT A RESCUE ON OUR OWN
WHERE *IS* HE, GAMMA?
JUST BEFORE YOU RESCUED ME FROM THEM, I HEARD CHARON *CHASTISE* HIS LAWBRINGER FOR SENDING KAINE TO SOME SPECIAL PLACE OF TORMENT
TO A WORLD CALLED *KARAKORUM*
GODS BELOW! THAT IS THE *LAST* PLACE YOU WANT TO GO IN ALL THE NEGATION! NOBODY *EVER* COMES BACK FROM KARAKORUM!

THEN PERHAPS WE MUST CONSIDER THAT
ah
NEVER MIND
CONSIDER WHAT?
WHAT WERE YOU GONNA SAY, EVINEAR?
SHE WAS GOING TO SUGGEST WE GIVE UP ON HIM
NO! HE NEVER GAVE UP ON RESCUING MY BABY GIRL EVEN WHEN I DID
WE GO AFTER HIM
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
THE PLANET IS QUARANTINED
SET A COURSE FOR KARAKORUM WE'LL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING
I KNOW WE'RE AWFUL SHORT ON FUEL
THOUGHT THIS THING'S FUEL CELLS WERE SELF CHARGING?
UH SORT OF RUNNING THE STEALTH SPHERE NONSTOP LEFT US WITH NEXT TO NOTHING
WHY DIDN'T YOU MENTION THIS EARLIER?
I DIDN'T WANT TO ALARM ANYONE
IT'S REALLY NOT A PROBLEM

I'LL RECHARGE THE BATTERY
OH SURE, NO PROBLEM! I MEAN WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT FORTY TERA QUADS OF OUTPUT! SO UNLESS YOU'RE HIDING A BABY NUKE SOMEWHERE
IT'S ALREADY DONE. CHECK THE FUEL GAUGE
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT
SO GAMMID
I DO NOT KNOW THE CUSTOM IN ATLANTIS, BUT MOST MORTALS FIND IT POLITE TO WEAR A SHIRT
I OFFERED HIM SOMETHING FROM THE SUPPLY LOCKER
I WILL NOT WEAR NEGATION CLOTHING. NOT AFTER WHAT THEY PUT ME THROUGH

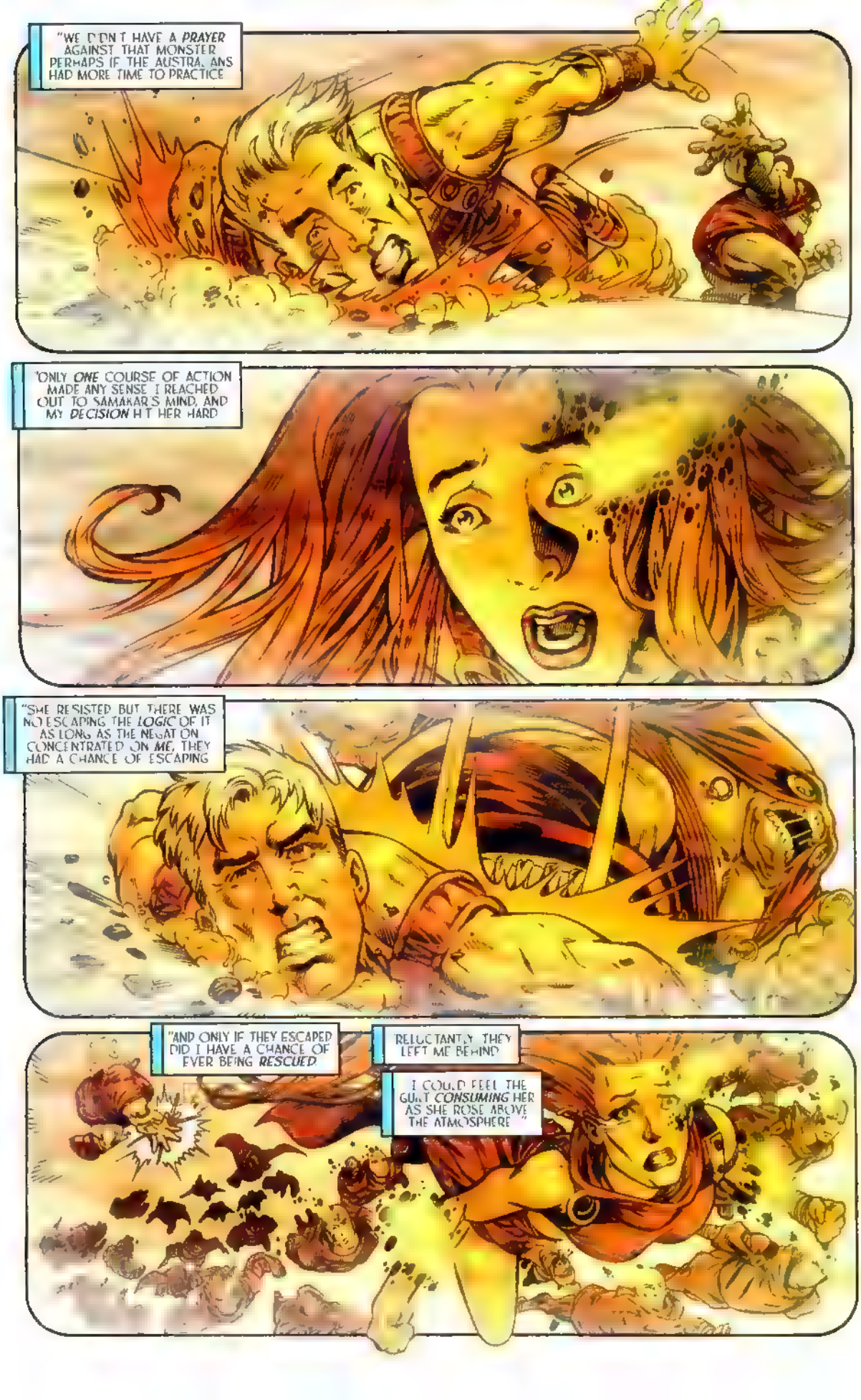

WHAT'S WRONG WITH NO SHIRT?
TAVI NEVER WORE A SHIRT
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO GET TO KARAKORUM I WANT TO HEAR THE REST OF YOUR TALE
JUST DON'T EXPECT A HAPPY ENDING
THE TRANSITION ROBBED THE ASTRALANS OF THEIR SANITY, THEIR JUDGMENT, THEIR SENSE OF SELF
IT WAS AN OVERWHELMING EXPERIENCE, AND THEY WERE ONLY HUMAN
FORTUNATELY, MY PEOPLE HAD BEEN HONING OUR MENTAL TALENTS SINCE BEFORE HISTORY WAS WRITTEN
I LET THEM DIRECTLY EXPERIENCE THE CLARITY MY SIGIL GAVE ME, AND WHAT IT FELT LIKE TO PROPERLY CHANNEL NEGATION ENERGY
GANIMID !
LIKE A LIGHTHOUSE BEACON, I SLOWLY GUIDED THEM BACK TO SANITY


"IF ONLY I COULD HAVE RESTORED THEM MORE QUICKLY IF ONLY WE'D HAD TIME TO PREPARE BUT THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM
AND OUR FATE WAS ALREADY BEING DECIDED
BY GENERAL MURQUADE, WHOSE SECTOR WE HAD LANDED IN AND WHOSE TROOPS KEEP VIDEO LOGS OF EVERY MISSION
ANY ASSAULT ON A NEGATION SOLDIER EARNS THE ATTACKER A DEATH SENTENCE RETRIBUTION IS SWIFT AND DECISIVE
THIS WE LEARNED THE HARD WAY"

THEY CAME IN GREAT NUMBERS BUT WERE STILL UNPREPARED FOR THE POWER WE WIELDED
I URGED MY FRIENDS TO STICK WITH DIRECT PHYSICAL ATTACKS. ENERGY CASTING WOULD TAKE THEM A WHILE LONGER TO MASTER
"I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD NO SUCH PROBLEM.
"YES. THEY HAD COMMITTED OVERWHELMING FORCES TO THE OPERATION.

BUT THEY HAD NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE US
"LATER, WHEN I WAS BROUGHT BEFORE HIM IN CHAINS, GENERAL MURSUADE TOLD ME THAT AS HE WATCHED US DESTROY HIS TROOPS, HE'D CONSIDERED FACING ME HIMSELF
"BUT WE WERE SO UNDISCIPLINED, SO OBVIOUSLY NEW TO WARFARE IT WAS BENEATH HIM TO DIRTY HIS HANDS ON THE LIKES OF US
SO HE CALLED UPON A REINFORCEMENT THAT HAD NO PRIDE, NO COMPUNCTIONS AND NO MERCY

"AND THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I EVER SAW A *LAWBRINGER*."


"WE DIDN'T HAVE A *PRAYER* AGAINST THAT MONSTER PERHAPS IF THE AUSTRALANS HAD MORE TIME TO PRACTICE
"ONLY *ONE* COURSE OF ACTION MADE ANY SENSE I REACHED OUT TO SAMAKAR'S MIND, AND MY *DECISION* HIT HER HARD
"SHE RESISTED BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPING THE *LOGIC* OF IT AS LONG AS THE NEGATRON CONCENTRATED ON *ME*, THEY HAD A CHANCE OF ESCAPING
"AND ONLY IF THEY ESCAPED DID I HAVE A CHANCE OF EVER BEING *RESCUED*
RELUCTANTLY, THEY LEFT ME BEHIND
I COULD FEEL THE GUILT *CONSUMING* HER AS SHE ROSE ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE."

SO I GUESS WE'RE EVEN NOW I SACRIFICED MYSELF FOR THEM ON VARUNA
SAMAKAR RETURNED THE FAVOR ON THE THRONEWORLD
LET'S JUST MAKE SURE THAT SACRIFICE ISN'T WASTED
IT WON'T BE
T WON'T BE
HEY, GUYS! YOU BETTER COME QUICK!
WHAT IS IT, WESTIN?
BEE-DEEP BEE-DEEP
INCOMING MESSAGE ON A NEGATION EMERGENCY FREQUENCY
IT SAYS IT'S FROM KAINE!

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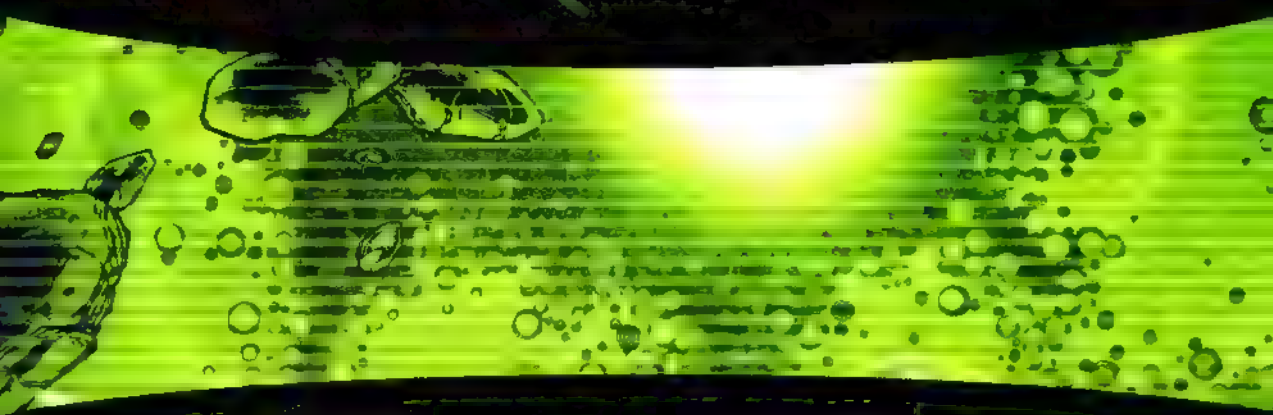

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Negation

"This book is a feast for the eyes."
— *Publishers Weekly*

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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the scam artist Westin, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the Saurian Lizard Lady, came from inherently powerful races. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against their Negation captors. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Joined by a powerful newcomer, Gammid of Atlantis, the fugitives receive a distress call from Kaine, whom they feared irretrievably lost. But before they can mount a rescue, they must first acquire some crucial supplies and equipment...

Negation® Vol. [illegible] Issue 18 JUNE 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics LLC Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400 Oldsmar Florida 34677 **Negation**® **CrossGen**® **CrossGen Comics**® **CrossGeneration**® and the **CrossGen sigil**® are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC The **CGE logo**™ and all prominent **Negation**® characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental With the exception of artwork used for review purposes none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics LLC PRINTED IN CANADA

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL US WHO YOU ARE, WHO YOU'RE WORKING FOR, AND WHAT YOU'RE REALLY AFTER
WHOA, BOYS! NO NEED FOR TORTURE!
I'LL GLADLY TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

IF I DON'T PUT THE SCREWS TO YOU, SWINDLER, HOW WILL I KNOW YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ?
HEY, I ALREADY TRIED LYING TO YOU PEOPLE, AND LOOK WHERE IT GOT ME
I'M THE KINDA GUY WHO DOESN'T REPEAT A MISTAKE
FIRST THING YOU SHOULD KNOW IS I HAVE A PRICE ON MY HEAD
THE REWARD ALONE COULD BE YOUR BIGGEST SCORE THIS YEAR MISTER BLACKBURROW BUT THE MORE YOU DAMAGE ME, THE LESS I'LL BE WORTH
AND WHO PUT THIS ALLEGED BOUNTY ON YOU?
WELL... I IMAGINE IT WAS EMPEROR CHARON HIMSELF AFTER ALL, IT'S HIS PRISON I ESCAPED FROM
NOW I KNOW YOU ARE LYING NO ONE ESCAPES THE NEGATION
JUST HEAR ME OUT! CHECK MY FACTS YOU'LL SEE BY THE END OF MY STORY THAT IT'S ALL TRUE, AND THAT THERE'S A KILLING TO BE MADE!
FINE GO AHEAD BUT BE QUICK ABOUT IT
I'LL SPARE YOU THE LONG VERSION AND JUST START WITH THE COMM CALL THAT ENDED ME UP HERE

OBREGON KAINE IS THE GUY WHO BUSTED US OUT OF NEGATION PRISON. WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, SO IMAGINE OUR SURPRISE WHEN "
THANK GOD I FINALLY GOT IN TOUCH WITH YOU! I'M IN A REAL HAIRY SITUATION HERE AND I NEED YOU TO EXTRACT ME ASAP!
COORDINATES, KAINE! GIVE US SOMETHING TO WORK WITH!
HOLD ON. TRANSMITTING NOW
HEY!
PLANET KA L MA
THAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY, KAINE! IMPRESSIVE, THAT THE LAWBRINGER MANAGED TO CAST YOU SO FAR
I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE HIS KIND ARE A MATCH FOR THE FIRST
NICE TO SEE YOU, TOO, EVINLEA.
LOOK I'VE FOUND A PLACE TO HIDE, BUT IT'S A BLOODBATH ON THE STREETS RIGHT NOW. HOW SOON CAN YOU GET HERE?
OBREGON KAINE? I AM GAMMID OF ATLANTIS. FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD, I OWE MY FREEDOM TO YOU
WE WILL GET YOU OUT OF THERE, BUT THIS SHIP WILL TAKE ABOUT THREE DAYS TO GET THERE AT TOP SPEED. CAN YOU STAY HIDDEN UNTIL THEN?

NO WAY I'LL LAST THREE DAYS I'LL EXPLAIN LATER BUT THERE'S SORT OF AN INVASION GOING ON HERE
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO GET THERE FASTER
HEY, I DIDN'T BUILD THIS THING IT'S A TRANSPORT BARGE NOT A HOT ROD
MAYBE THERE'S FASTER SHIPS OUT THERE BUT THE ENGINE ON THIS ONE IS STRICTLY STANDARD ISSUE
WE'LL EITHER STEAL A BETTER SHIP OR UPGRADE THIS ONE BUT WE'LL GET THERE IN TIME I PROMISE YOU!
JUST HOLD ON AS LONG AS YOU CAN, KAINE
NOT LIKE I HAVE MUCH CHOICE END TRANSMISSION
WE'LL HAVE TO STOP AT THE NEAREST TRADE HUB AND SEE IF THEY HAVE WHAT WE NEED
AND SINCE WHEN DID THE NEGATION ALLOW COMMERCE WITH ESCAPED PRISONERS?
DON'T BE DENSE, EVINLEA WE'LL HAVE TO FIND A BLACK MARKET
NO MATTER HOW OPPRESSED PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING TO MAKE A PROFIT
WE'LL HAVE TO RESUPPLY WHILE WE'RE AT IT IT'LL BE NICE TO EAT AGAIN AFTER TWO DAYS OF NOTHING BUT RECLAIMED WATER

"I DIDN'T WANT TO BE ANYWHERE NEARBY WHILE THEY PLANNED THIS *FOOL'S ERRAND*
" FOR FEAR THAT THEY'D REALIZE *I* WAS THE MAN FOR THE JOB AND *VOLUNTEER* ME, OR SOMETHING"
BESIDES, I WAS *STARVING*, AND MY RESERVE WAS STASHED BACK IN SUB LOCKER THREE WHERE NO ONE EVER POKED AROUND"
I THOUGHT WE HAD OFFICIALLY *RUN OUT* OF FOOD
WHAT NO *CLEVER RETORT*? PERHAPS YOU REALIZE HOW *AWKWARD* THIS MIGHT SEEM TO OUR COMRADES?
OR PERHAPS YOU SENSE HOW *DANGEROUS* IT IS TO LET *ME* GO HUNGRY FOR TOO LONG

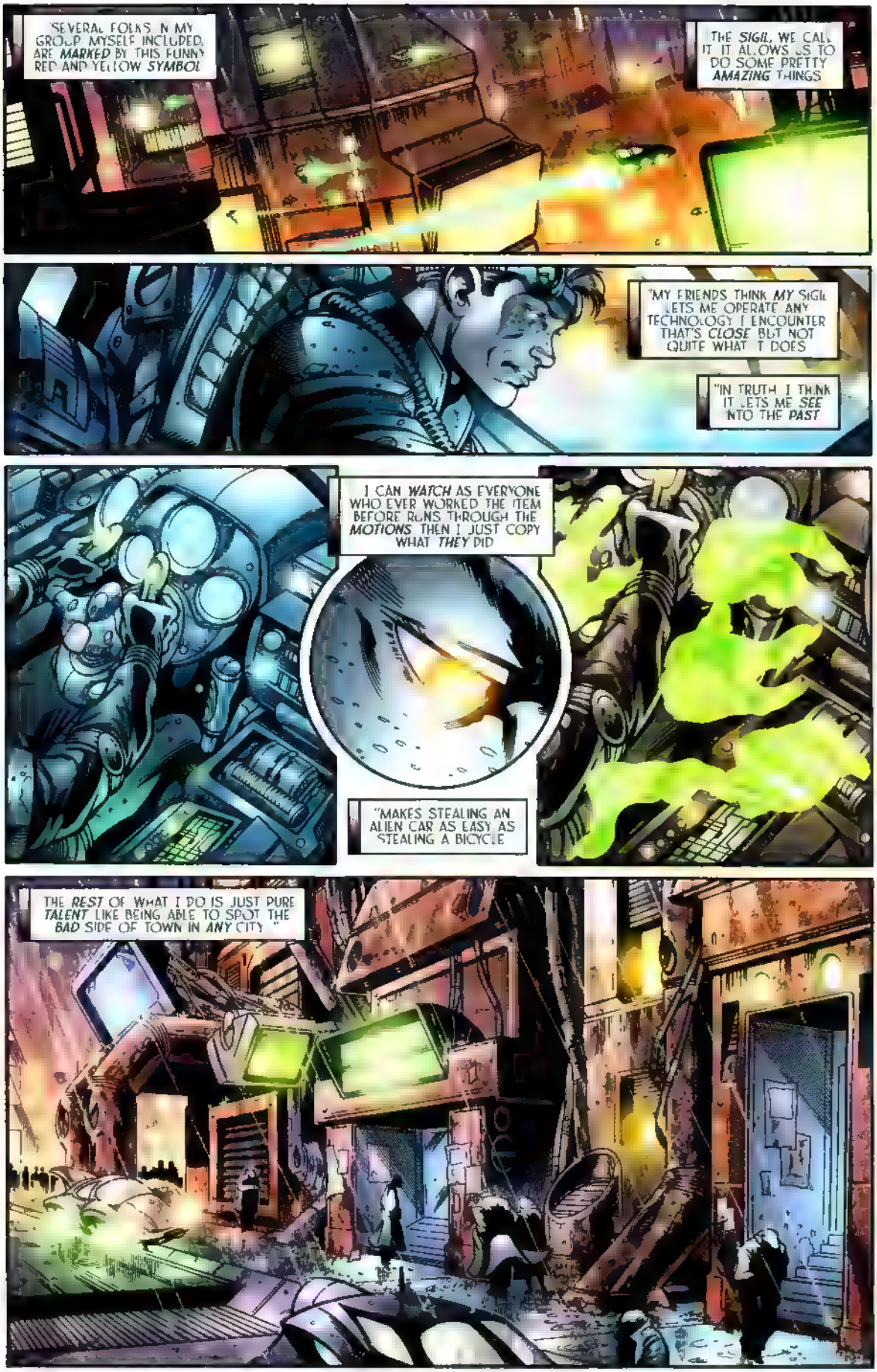
I'M TELLING YOU, SHE'S THE RECON EXPERT NOT ME I'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY!
SPARE ME, WESTIN I KNOW A FELLOW THIEF WHEN I SEE ONE
I TOOK THINGS AT GUNPOINT YOUR TOOLS OF THE TRADE ARE DOUBLE-TALK AND LIES
THANKS, DRAKE YOU'D MAKE A GREAT PRISON SNITCH
IF YOU WANT LIZARD LADY TO LEAD THE MISSION, THAT'S FINE BUT ONLY YOU UNDERSTAND THIS SHIP'S TECH-NOLOGY
NONE OF US WOULD KNOW THE RIGHT ENGINE UPGRADE MODULE IF WE SAW IT SORRY, FRIEND, BUT YOU HAVE TO GO
"LIZARD LADY NEVER DID MENTION MY FOOD STASH TO THE OTHERS MAYBE SHE JUST WANTED THAT ACE UP HER SLEEVE TO KEEP ME IN LINE
ALL I KNEW FOR SURE WAS THAT IF I WAS STUCK WITH THIS MISSION, I HAD BETTER TAKE COMMAND OF IT."

GOOD THING YOU HAVE GILLS NOW IF THIS RAIN GETS ANY WORSE
DO NOT ENGAGE ME IN IDLE CHATTER
IT'S NOT SO IDLE WE'RE ABOUT TO FACE DEATH TOGETHER AND I HAVE SOME LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS IF I'M GONNA TRUST YOU
SUCH AS HOW EXACTLY DID YOU PICK UP THE GILLS AND WEBBED HANDS AND RED SKIN ? YOU LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE AMPHIBIAN-THINGS YOU FOUGHT BACK ON THE ICE-PLANET
THAT INFORMATION IS ON A NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT I AM A SAURIAN WAR SCOUT I CAN INFILTRATE, LOCATE AND LIBERATE ESSENTIAL MATERIEL WITH THE BEST OF THEM
YOU JUST PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WHEN THE TIME COMES UNTIL THEN, SHUT UP
SEE YOUR FIRST MISTAKE IS THINKING THIS IS A COMBAT MISSION WE NEED A DIALOGUE, NOT A SHOOT-OUT
SILENCE SOMEONE'S UP AHEAD
WAIT HERE AND HIDE KYALHTUA HELP YOU IF I RETURN AND YOU ARE GONE
O OKAY

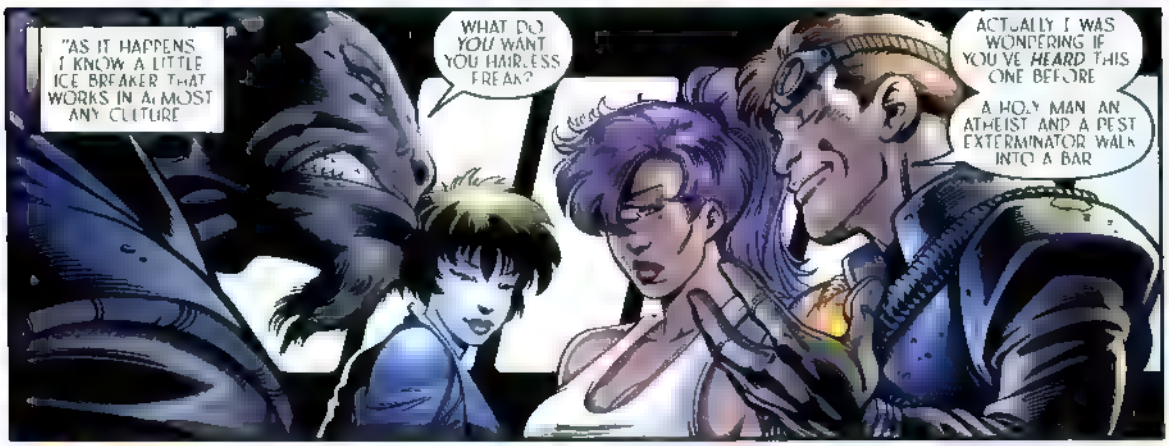
"MY TRAVELING COMPANIONS ARE FROM ALL OVER. LIZARD LADY IS FROM A PLACE WHERE I'LL NEVER GO BAR HOPPING."
Y COULDN'T JUST HOLD IT UNTIL WE GOT TO THE RESTAURANT
AW, GIMME A BREAK!
THE GIRLS WILL WAIT IT'S GOOD T'MAKE 'EM WAIT
DON'T WANT 'EM THINKING WE'RE TOO EASY. LET 'EM ENJOY THE THRILL OF THE
HUNT ?!
TELL ME THIS! EDOWN AND DON'T LIE
DO MY THIGHS LOOK FAT IN THESE PANTS
SHWFF

THISTLEDOWN ?!
RRR-CHEECHEE!

OH OH GOD WHATEVER YOU ARE PLEASE I'LL DO ANYTHING
I NEED INFORMATION
I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING
I KNOW YOU WILL
"THE LIZARD LADY TOOK HER SWEET TIME GATHERING HER INTEL. ALTHOUGH I NEVER OVERHEARD ANY ACTUAL QUESTIONING
"OF COURSE I DIDN'T STICK AROUND LONG AFTER SHE LURED THOSE POOR WEASELS INTO THE WOODS
I HAD TO GET AHEAD OF HER AND ACT FAST IF I WAS GOING TO KEEP ANY MORE OF YOUR PEOPLE FROM MEETING THEIR UNTIMELY DEMISE."


SEVERAL FOLKS IN MY GROUP, MYSELF INCLUDED, ARE MARKED BY THIS FUNNY RED AND YELLOW SYMBOL
THE SIGIL, WE CALL IT IT ALLOWS US TO DO SOME PRETTY AMAZING THINGS
"MY FRIENDS THINK MY SIGIL LETS ME OPERATE ANY TECHNOLOGY I ENCOUNTER THAT'S CLOSE BUT NOT QUITE WHAT IT DOES
"IN TRUTH I THINK IT LETS ME SEE INTO THE PAST
I CAN WATCH AS EVERYONE WHO EVER WORKED THE ITEM BEFORE RUNS THROUGH THE MOTIONS THEN I JUST COPY WHAT THEY DID
"MAKES STEALING AN ALIEN CAR AS EASY AS STEALING A BICYCLE
THE REST OF WHAT I DO IS JUST PURE TALENT LIKE BEING ABLE TO SPOT THE BAD SIDE OF TOWN IN ANY CITY."

PLACES LIKE THIS ARE ALL THE *SAME*, NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO
CRIMINALS, COWARDS, COLLEGE KIDS AND WANNABES HANG OUT HERE. PEOPLE WHO LIVE AND DO BUSINESS ON THE FRINGES OF *THE SYSTEM*. PEOPLE LIKE *ME*

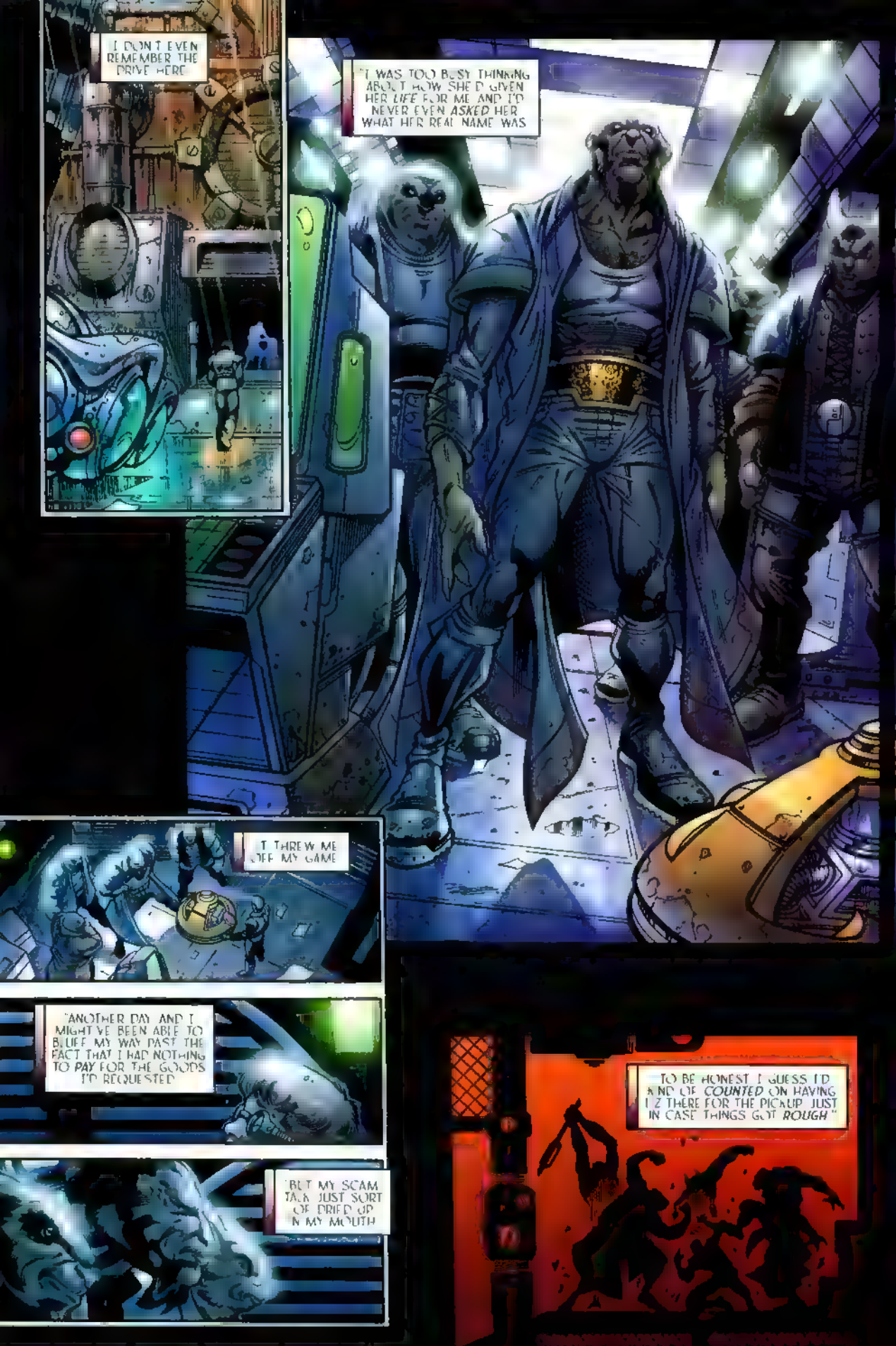

"AS IT HAPPENS, I KNOW A LITTLE ICE BREAKER THAT WORKS IN ALMOST ANY CULTURE
WHAT DO *YOU* WANT YOU HAIRLESS FREAK?
ACTUALLY I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'VE *HEARD* THIS ONE BEFORE
A HOLY MAN, AN ATHEIST AND A PEST EXTERMINATOR WALK INTO A BAR

AND THAT'S HOW I MET YOUR ASSOCIATE MISTER SCUTTLETHRUSH
OF COURSE, I DIDN'T KNOW THEN THAT HE WORKED FOR YOU, MISTER BLACKBURROW
I JUST KNEW HE LOOKED LIKE A GUY WITH CONNECTIONS SURE ENOUGH, WE CAME TO TERMS AND ARRANGED FOR PICKUP OF SOME STOLEN GOODS WITHIN HOURS
IN NOTHING FLAT, I HAD LINED UP A HOT ENGINE MODULE
NOW I JUST HAD TO LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO COLLECT IT
=HURK=

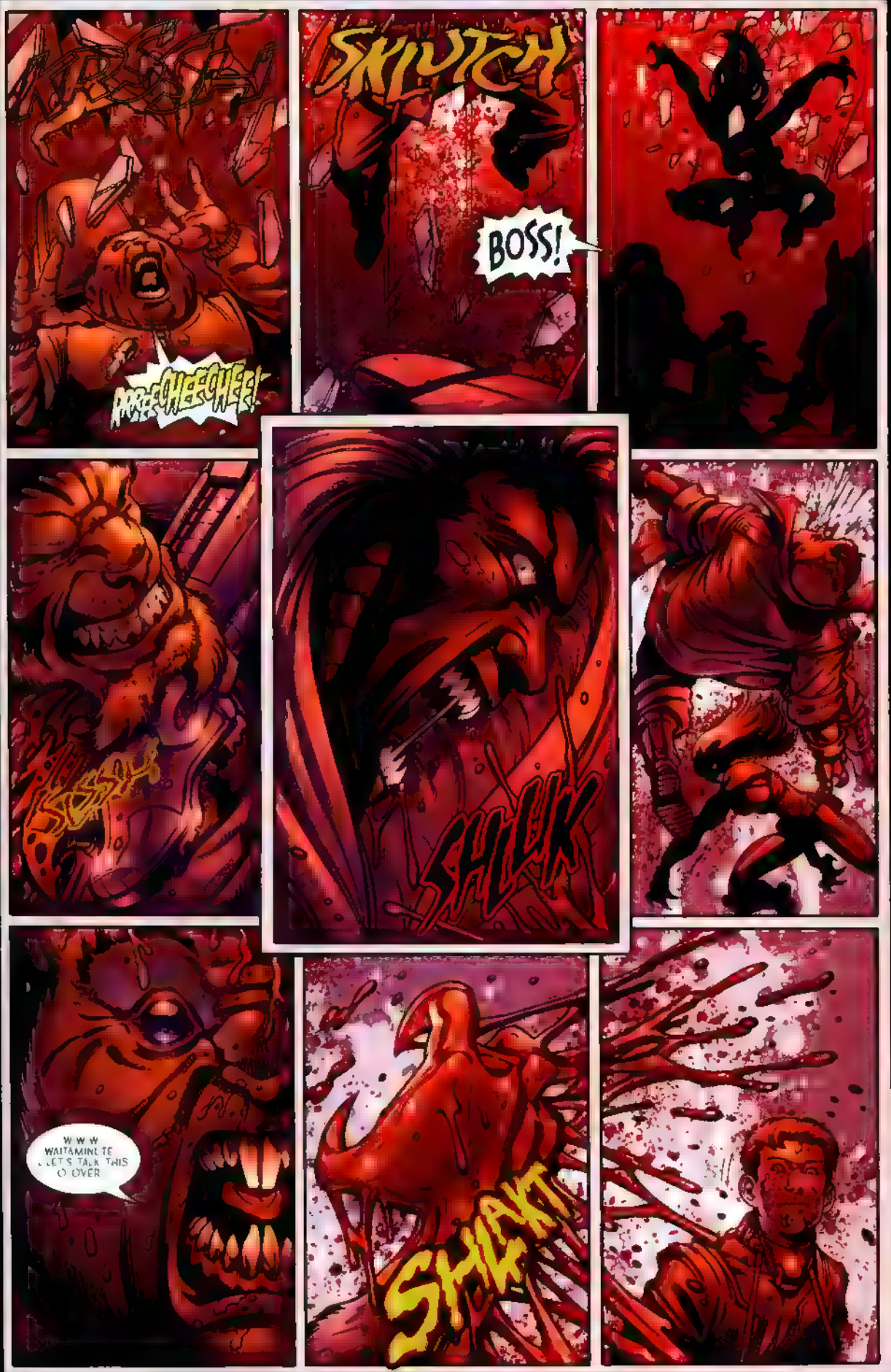
HOW DID YOU
YOU DISOBEYED MY ORDERS! DO IT AGAIN AND I WILL KILL YOU!
HEY, THIS IS NOT THE LIZARDLAND ARMY! WHAT YOU CALL AN ORDER I CALL A SUGGESTION, SO EASE UP, OK?
I WOULDN'T HAVE LEFT YOU HERE, Y'KNOW
BESIDES, YOUR WAY WOULD LEAVE A TRAIL OF BODIES FOR THE LOCAL COPS TO FOLLOW. MY WAY HAS ALREADY YIELDED OUR OBJECTIVE
YOU HAVE LOCATED A NEW SHIP?
BETTER IN AN HOUR, I'LL MEET A GUY WHO WILL SELL US SOMETHING CALLED A TRANSWARP POD THAT WILL GET US TO KAINE BY DINNERTIME
HE'S THROWING IN A DEVICE THAT MAKES CLOTHING, AND HALF A TON OF NEGATION MILITARY RATIONS, JUST 'CAUSE I'M SO DARN FUNNY
HOW DO YOU KNOW IT IS NOT A TRAP?
I'VE MADE ENOUGH DEALS IN MY TIME TO KNOW THIS ONE'S LEGIT WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

I'M STILL NOT SURE IF THE NEGATION TROOPS HAD *FOLLOWED* LIZARD LADY OR IF SOMEONE IN THE NIGHTCLUB TIPPED THEM OFF ABOUT ME
"I JUST KNEW THAT SUDDENLY THERE WAS NO ONE I'D RATHER HAVE BESIDE ME THAN MY SHARP SHOOTIN' PAL *LIZ*
"EVEN WITH ME SWERVING LIKE A DRUNKEN BAT SHE MANAGED TO NAIL ONE OF THE CREEPS RIGHT OFF
BUT THESE GUYS WERE NO SLOUCHES"

HYAIII!
HELP!
ZARK
"...I KNEW MY CHANCES OF DIVING THE CAR AND *CATCHING* HER WERE NEXT TO NOTHING, BUT I SWEAR I WOULD'VE *TRIED*.
"...THEN EVENTS KIND OF *OVERTOOK* ANYTHING I MIGHT'VE HAD IN MIND..."


I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THE DRIVE HERE
"I WAS TOO BUSY THINKING ABOUT HOW SHE'D GIVEN HER *LIFE* FOR ME AND I'D NEVER EVEN *ASKED* HER WHAT HER REAL NAME WAS
IT THREW ME OFF MY GAME
"ANOTHER DAY AND I MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO BLUFF MY WAY PAST THE FACT THAT I HAD NOTHING TO PAY FOR THE GOODS I'D REQUESTED
BUT MY SCAM TALK JUST SORT OF DRIED UP IN MY MOUTH
"TO BE HONEST, I GUESS I'D KIND OF *COUNTED* ON HAVING LIZ THERE FOR THE PICKUP, JUST IN CASE THINGS GOT *ROUGH*."

AND THAT'S HOW I WOUND UP SITTING HERE IN FRONT OF YOU
I DO NOT WORK FOR ANY OF YOUR BLACK MARKET RIVALS IN FACT, I'VE NEVER BEEN TO YOUR FINE PLANET BEFORE
I AM AN ESCAPED PRISONER I DO HAVE A BOUNTY ON MY HEAD AND THE REST OF MY COMPANIONS ARE PARKED IN A LITTLE RABBIT EARED TRANSPORT SHIP IN THE WOODS OUTSIDE OF TOWN
Mm
BEFORE I CHOP YOU UP INTO WORM FOOD, I REALLY NEED TO KNOW
WAS ANY OF THIS PREPOSTEROUS STORY TRUE?
EVERY SINGLE WORD
EXCEPT THE PART ABOUT LIZ GETTING SHOT


SKLUTCH
BOSS!
SHLUK
W W W
WAITAMINUTE
LET'S TALK THIS
O OVER
SHLAKT

I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU'D *NEVER* FIND ME AND I'D HAVE TO *STRETCH* THAT STORY FOREVER
AS LONG AS THAT *STOLEN VEHICLE* WAS WITH YOU, I COULD TRACK YOU DOWN
HOW SO?

THE OWNER HAD THIS ANTI THEFT DEVICE IN HIS POCKET
IT CAUSES THE VEHICLE TO EMIT A TRAIL OF PARTICLES VISIBLE IN A PART OF THE SPECTRUM ONLY THE NATIVES CAN SEE
YOU EAT THEM DON'T YOU?
YOU ABSORB TRAITS LIKE AMPHIBIAN GILLS AND WEASEL PEEPERS
WHAT DO YOU JUST TAKE WHAT YOU CAN USE FROM THEIR DNA OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT
A FEW OF OUR COMPANIONS SUSPECT, BUT YOU ARE THE FIRST TO HAVE SAID SO TO MY FACE
THIS MAY BE THE WORST KEPT SECRET OF OUR GROUP NEVERTHELESS I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR NOT DISCUSSING IT WITH THE OTHERS
NOT A PROBLEM YOU DIDN'T SNITCH ON MY SECRET COOKIE STASH I GUESS THIS MAKES US EVEN
LET'S GET THIS LOOT PACKED UP BEFORE THE COPS COME SNIFFING AROUND
ONE LAST THING, WESTON
NAME IT
YOU MAY NOT CALL ME "LIZ"

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

PAUL PELLETIER
PENCILER

DAVE MEIKIS
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The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa

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CrossGen

19
JULY

Negation

Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the space pirate Mercer Drake, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, came from inherently powerful races. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Separated from the others, Kaine and Komptin were banished to a planet of deadly aliens. They managed to escape to Komptin's world, planet Kalima, in the process subjecting Kalima to an alien invasion. Kaine managed to contact the fugitives, who now race against time to rescue their stranded friend...

Negation® Vol. 1 Issue 19 JULY 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400 Oldsmar, Florida 34677
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PLANET KALIMA
NO 000001 04
ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS OF NEGATION GALAXY 000001, QUADRANT FOUR
RECENT GLOBAL DISRUPTIONS ON KALIMA HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY ATTRIBUTED TO AN INCURSION FROM PLANET KARAKORUM
HOWEVER THIS ATTACK WAS NOT REPEAT NOT SANCTIONED BY THE EMPEROR
LIFE FORM: KARAKI
ORIGIN: KARAKORUM
"HUNTING MODE" [WORD] TO:
"BIPED MODE"
HORDES OF THE DREADED KARAKI CURRENTLY RANGE ACROSS ALL FOUR CONTINENTS. CIVILIANS ARE REMINDED NOT TO APPROACH THEM IN THEIR HUNTING [WORD]
IN A FEW SHORT HOURS, THE IMPERIAL FLEET WILL HAVE KALIMA UNDER QUARANTINE, AND NEGATION FORCES WILL REPEL THIS INVASION
General Kryzorr
Military Rogeal: SectorCom 01
WE ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR THOSE [WORD] FOR THIS INCURSION
WE KNOW WHO THEY ARE AND THEIR DAYS ARE [WORD].

"TRAVEL TO AND FROM KARMA IS FORBIDDEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE"
HRAH!
WHAT ARE YOU *WAITING* FOR? *SHOOT* IT!
WITH *WHAT?* THESE THINGS SHRUG OFF ANYTHING SHORT OF A *FUSION CUTTER!*
ALL *THIS'LL* DO IS MAKE IT *MAD!*

SOMEONE CALL FOR BACKUP?
IS THIS RESIDENTIAL NODE YURPLE?
YYES
YES, SIR!
THANK YOU
HRAIEEE
DING DONG

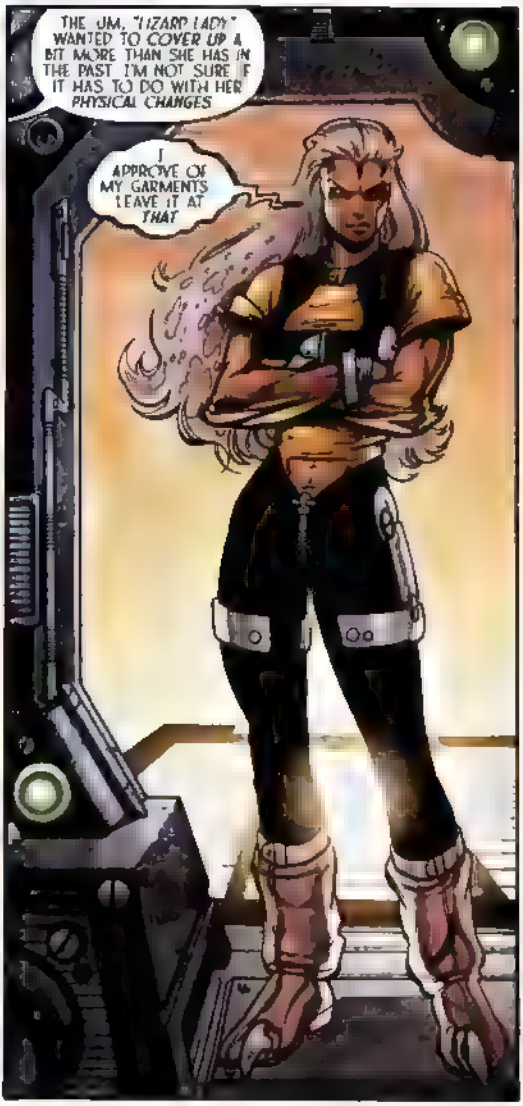
YES?
I AM HERE TO SEE YOUR SON MY NAME IS
GENERAL KRYZORR I KNOW AND I HUMBLY WELCOME YOU TO MY HOME
THANK YOU, GENERAL! I KNOW THIS MEETING MUST HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO KEEP PRIVATE
I HAD TO SEE THE MESS YOU'VE MADE WITH MY OWN EYES
AND DON'T BOTHER SALUTING, KOMPTIN YOU'RE NOT A SOLDIER ANYMORE YOU'RE AN ESCAPED CONVICT
SUPPOSING BY THE WAY THE KARAKI ARE TARGETING DOGS INSTEAD OF PEOPLE WE KNOW YOU MUST HAVE SACRIFICED YOUR PET TO THEM
AND WHEN THEY CAME HERE FOR MORE YOU FOLLOWED
IT WAS YOU THAT SHOULD HAVE DIED ON KARAKORUM NOT YOUR DOG

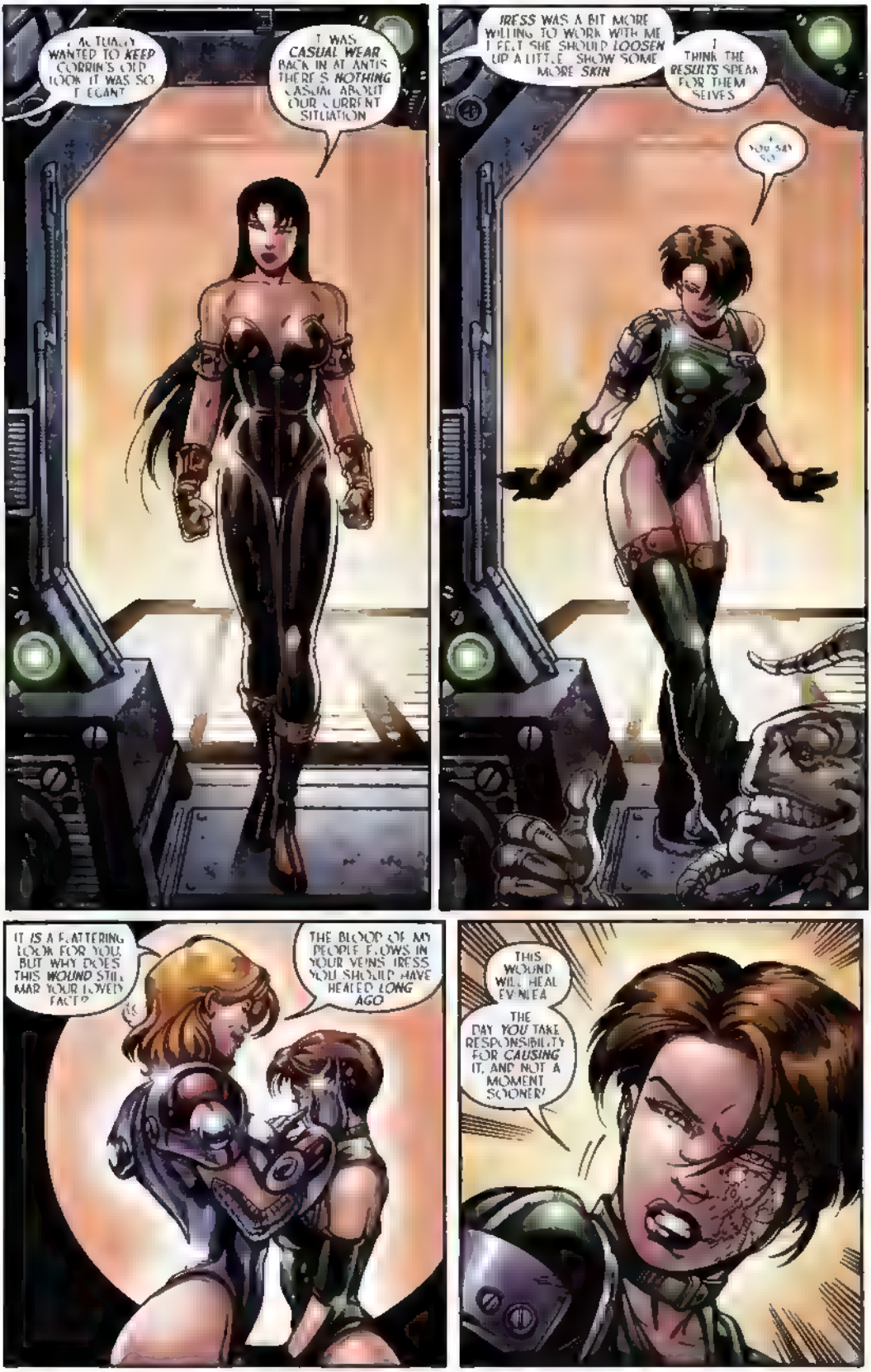
I SAVED MY ENTIRE SPECIES FROM THE WHIM OF A FAWBRINGER! WE ARE A RACE OF WARRIORS, SIR! WE LIVE TO SERVE CHARON!
I DID THE EMPIRE A FAVOR, SIR!
THE REAL CRIMINALS ARE THE ONES WHO ESCAPED FROM MY PRISON! THEY ATTACKED THE THRONEWORLD, AND THE EMPEROR HIMSELF!
NOW I STAND READY TO DELIVER THEM TO YOU! ALL OF THEM!
eh?
DO YOU THINK THAT MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO WARRANT MY REINSTATEMENT?
WHERE ARE THE REST OF THEM?
ON THEIR WAY

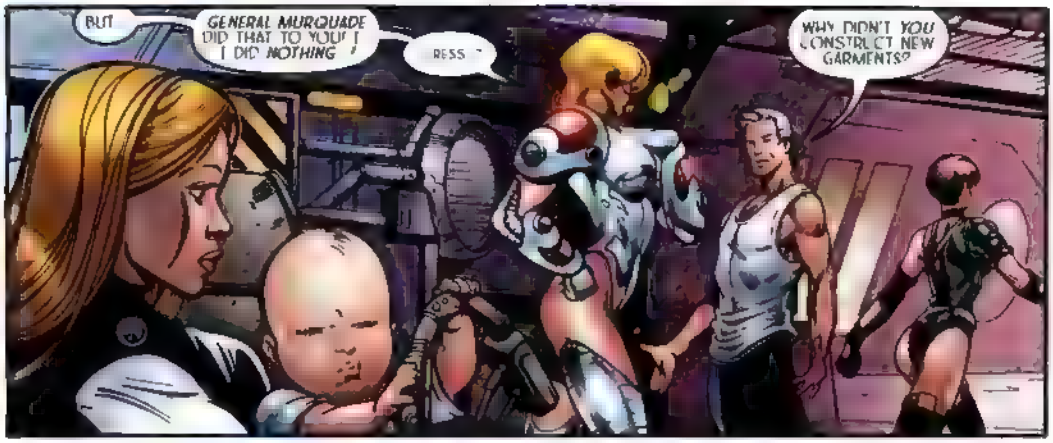
I FORCED PRISONER KAINE TO CALL THEM FOR A *RESCUE*. THEY HAVE NO IDEA THEY ARE WALKING INTO A *TRAP*.
READY, BOYS?
THE *FASHION SHOW* IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!
WAIT, WESTIN. HOW MUCH LONGER UNTIL WE REACH THE PLANET *KAINE* IS HIDING ON?
A LITTLE OVER AN *HOUR* BEFORE WE DROP OUT OF WARP SPACE. OKAY?
CAN WE GO LOOK AT THE *GIRLS* NOW?
SIGH
SURE. LET'S GO.

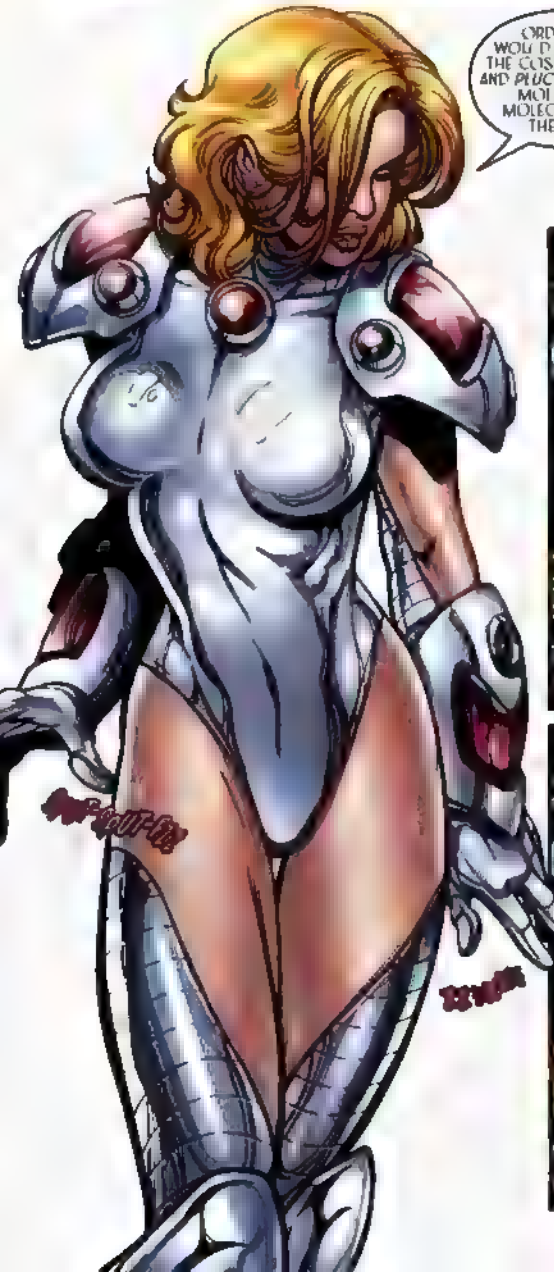
I USED TO WORK AS A SEAMSTRESS BACK HOME ON TORBEL
SO ONCE WESTIN SHOWED ME HOW TO OPERATE THIS GLORIFIED SPINNING WHEEL, I HELPED SOME OF THE GIRLS DESIGN NEW OUTFITS
I'M PRETTY PROUD OF THE RESULTS

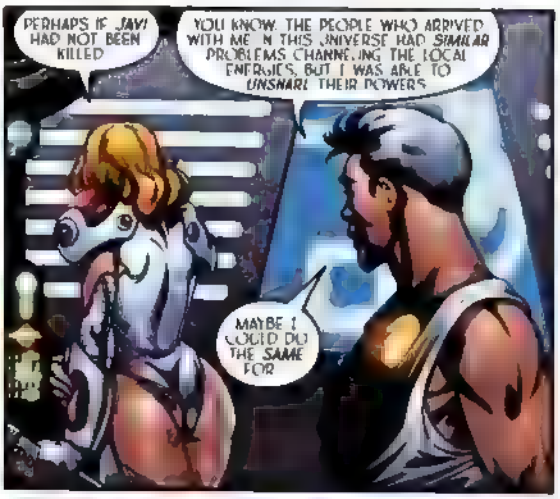
I GOT SHASSA TO ADD A LITTLE COLOR TO HER LOOK I WANTED TO STYLE HER HAIR BUT...
ONE STEP AT A TIME CALYX

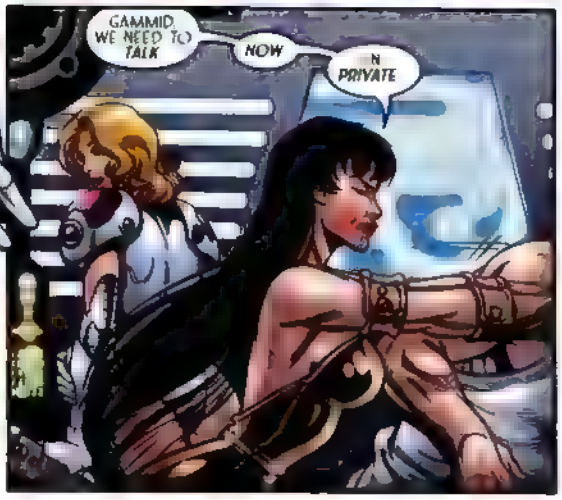

THE JIM, "LIZARD LADY" WANTED TO COVER UP A BIT MORE THAN SHE HAS IN THE PAST. I'M NOT SURE IF IT HAS TO DO WITH HER PHYSICAL CHANGES
I APPROVE OF MY GARMENTS LEAVE IT AT THAT


ACTUALLY I WANTED TO KEEP CORRIN'S OLD LOOK IT WAS SO ELEGANT
I WAS CASUAL WEAR BACK IN ATLIS THERE'S NOTHING CASUAL ABOUT OUR CURRENT SITUATION
IRESS WAS A BIT MORE WILLING TO WORK WITH ME I FELT SHE SHOULD LOOSEN UP A LITTLE SHOW SOME MORE SKIN
I THINK THE RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES
IF YOU SAY SO
IT IS A FLATTERING LOOK FOR YOU BUT WHY DOES THIS WOUND STILL MAR YOUR LOVELY FACE?
THE BLOOD OF MY PEOPLE FLOWS IN YOUR VEINS IRESS YOU SHOULD HAVE HEALED LONG AGO
THIS WOUND WILL HEAL EVENTUALLY
THE DAY YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR CAUSING IT, AND NOT A MOMENT SOONER!


BUT...
GENERAL MURQUADE DID THAT TO YOU! I DID NOTHING!
RESS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU CONSTRUCT NEW GARMENTS?


ORDINARILY, I WOULD MANIPULATE THE COSMIC ENERGIES AND PLUCK MY RAIMENT, MOLECULE BY MOLECULE FROM THE ETHER
BUT AS YOU WELL KNOW THE ENERGIES IN NEGATION SPACE ARE SO EXPLOSIVELY UNSTABLE I AVOID SUCH EXTRAVAGANT FEATS


PERHAPS IF JAVI HAD NOT BEEN KILLED
YOU KNOW, THE PEOPLE WHO ARRIVED WITH ME IN THIS UNIVERSE HAD SIMILAR PROBLEMS CHANNELING THE LOCAL ENERGIES, BUT I WAS ABLE TO UNSNARL THEIR POWERS
MAYBE I COULD DO THE SAME FOR


GAMMID, WE NEED TO TALK
NOW
IN PRIVATE

I CAUGHT HIM ABOUT FOUR HOURS AFTER WE ARRIVED ON KALIMA. I'VE HAD HIM HERE EVER SINCE
I FORCED HIM TO CONTACT HIS FRIENDS AND REQUEST AN EXTRACTION. HE MADE IT CONVINCING
WITH ME STANDING JUST OFF CAMERA POINTING A GUN AT HIS HEAD HE PRETTY MUCH HAD TO
SO YOU HAD THE AUDACITY TO FIRE A PLASMA CANNON AT THE EMPEROR ?
HAHAHAHA

YOU ARE ONE IN A MILLION, PRISONER KAINE. THAT LUCKY SHOT AT ONE COULD MAKE YOU A HERO TO MALCONTENTS ACROSS THE IMPERIUM
I'M AFRAID WE CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN. THE EMPEROR WILL BE MAKING AN EXAMPLE OF YOU
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKING HIM BACK TO THE THRONEWORLD, OF COURSE
I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU LEAVE HIM HERE SIR
UNTIL YOU OFFICIALLY REINSTATE ME I'M NOT IN A HURRY TO GIVE UP MY BARGAINING CHIP
IF I WERE YOU, CONVICT, I WOULD NOT PUSH MY LUCK
I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU MAKE YOUR OWN LUCK SIR
THE FUGITIVES ARE COMING TO THESE COORDINATES TO PICK HIM UP
TO THIS HOUSE ? MY HOUSE?!
THE TRAP STANDS A BETTER CHANCE OF WORKING IF THE BAIT IS ACTUALLY IN IT WHEN THEY ARRIVE
HAH- VERY WELL

YOU WERE ABOUT TO RESTORE EVINLEA'S POWERS WEREN'T YOU?
WELL, YES
AND DID YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF IF THAT'S A SMART IDEA?
WELL, I HAVEN'T KNOWN ANY OF YOU LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THAT CALL
WE'RE BOTH FROM ATLANTIS, YOUR MIND HAS TOUCHED MY MIND I THINK YOU KNOW ME WELL ENOUGH
TRUST ME ON THIS, EVINLEA WILL HELP US ONLY AS LONG AS SHE NEEDS US
ONCE SHE'S BACK TO FULL POWER SHE'LL DROP US LIKE A BAD HABIT THE MINUTE WE BECOME INCONVENIENT TO HER
OKAY I'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE HELPING HER
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND, DESERVE TO REGAIN YOUR RIGHTFUL STATURE
SHARE MY THOUGHTS, CORRIN EXPERIENCE HOW IT FEELS TO CHANNEL NEGATION ENERGY UNHINDERED
OH!

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN RUNNING A MARATHON UP TO MY CHIN IN MUD AND SUDDENLY I'M BACK ON SOLID GROUND
THIS IS WHAT THE MARK ON MY CHEST DOES - IT'S LIKE A LENS, OR A FILTER, OR
OR AN ADAPTOR THE KIND THAT LETS YOU PLUG INTO AN ALIEN POWER SOURCE
DRAKE! I'M
I'M ME AGAIN! EVERYTHING I WAS ABLE TO DO BACK AT HOME
THAT'S WHAT I WANT, TOO
WE'VE ALL COME A LONG WAY SINCE OUR FIRST DAY IN THIS MESSED UP UNIVERSE. BUT IF YOU HAVE A SHORTCUT TO GETTING BACK TO FULL STRENGTH, I'M BUYING
MY HELP IS NOT FOR SALE, DRAKE
IT IS GIVEN FREELY TO THOSE WHO DESERVE IT
THE QUESTION IS DO YOU?

VERY WELL KOMPTIN, I BELIEVE WE HAVE ARRIVED AT AN UNDERSTANDING, THOUGH FOR THE TIME BEING OUR DEAL MUST REMAIN UN OFFICIAL
OF COURSE, SIR THAT'S WHY I REQUESTED A PRIVATE MEETING
AS A COURTESY TO YOU IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG WITH THE TRAP I'VE SET YOU CAN DENY HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT
BUT IF IT GOES RIGHT, I GET MY CAREER BACK, AND YOU GET TO MAKE A LOT MORE "EXAMPLES" THAT WILL PLEASE THE EMPEROR TO NO END
KOMPTIN EITHER YOU ARE THE BIGGEST FOOL, OR THE MOST DARING SOLDIER I'VE SEEN IN TEN CENTURIES
WE SHALL FIND OUT WHICH, SOON ENOUGH
?
IS KAMFIR, SIR I'M SORRY MY BROTHER'S BEEN SO ROUGH ON YOU
IS IT TRUE? DID YOU REALLY SHOOT THE EMPEROR?
WHAT, IS KOMPTIN SELLING TICKETS ?

HE DOESN'T KNOW I'M IN HERE. HE'D KILL ME IF HE CAUGHT ME.
I GUESS FAMILY TIES DON'T COUNT FOR MUCH HERE.
THEY DO TO US, BUT NOT SO A LOYAL SOLDIER OF THE NEGATION.
WHICH IS WHY I HOOKED UP WITH THE RESISTANCE.
WHAT "RESISTANCE"?
NOT EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH SERVING THE EMPEROR. SOME OF US ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR CHANGE.
ALTHOUGH WE'VE NEVER HAD THE GUTS TO ATTACK THE THRONEWORLD LIKE YOU DID!
GUTS, STUPIDITY. TAKE YOUR PICK.
YOU KNOW YOUR STORY IS THE HOTTEST THING ON THE SHADOWNET. BY NEXT WEEK EVERY ONE IN THE QUADRANT WILL KNOW.
LOOK, KID, I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, BUT GENERAL BUBBLE HEAD PROBABLY HAS THIS WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD ON LOCKDOWN BY NOW. WHERE AM I GONNA RUN?
FIRST THINGS FIRST. JSE, THIS TO WARN YOUR FRIENDS. THIS IS A TRAP. IT'S SET TO THE SAME COMM CODE YOU USED TO CALL THEM LAST TIME.

UNBELIEVABLE
IT DOESN'T *HURT* ANYMORE !
YEAH, THE BLOW FEELS EFFORTLESS LIKE IT *USED* TO
CARE TO TAKE *YOUR* TURN MATUA?
THANK YOU, BUT THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. THROUGH CONSTANT MEDITATION AND PRACTICE, I'VE ACTUALLY GOTTEN BACK TO FULL POWER ALL BY *MYSELF*
FOR A WHILE THERE I COULDN'T SEEM TO GET *MY ATTACK SPELLS* WORKING, BUT I HAD A BIT OF A MENTAL *BREAKTHROUGH* YESTERDAY
HOW VERY *WONDERFUL* FOR YOU, MATUA
IF ONLY *MY* MIND WERE SO *SIMPLE* A PUZZLE TO PIECE TOGETHER
SO, GAMMID? WHY HAVE YOU NOT EXTENDED THE SAME COURTESY TO *ME* THAT YOU'VE GIVEN SO FREELY TO THE *OTHERS* ?

EVERYBODY! ANOTHER CALL FROM KAINE!
CHANGE OF PLAN, PEOPLE. THE NEGATION HAVE SET A TRAP FOR YOU IF YOU COME HERE
SOON AS I FIND A WAY OUT I'LL CALL WITH NEW EXFIL COORDINATES
IF I FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE
WE'RE ALMOST THERE. JUST STAY PUT AND WE'LL PICK YOU UP
NEGATIVE! THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT-- YOU GUYS SWEEPING IN TO THE RESCUE
BELIEVE ME, KAINE, WHATEVER FORCES LIE IN WAIT FOR US
THERE IS NO WAY THEY'RE READY FOR WHAT THEY'RE ABOUT TO FACE!

OVER AND OUT!
NO WAIT!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THIS IS MY ROOM. I KNOCKED OUT A SHAFT INTO THE SEWERS SO I COULD SNEAK AWAY WITHOUT MOM FINDING OUT.
THIS IS HOW YOU'LL BE LEAVING
LISTEN. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE LEADER OF THE RESISTANCE WAS IMPRISONED BY CHARON ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO.
HE MANAGES TO COMMUNICATE WITH US NOW AND THEN BUT WE'LL NEVER REALLY RISE UP UNTIL HE'S FREE.
YOU SHOT THE EMPEROR. IF ANYONE CAN SPRING HIM FROM JAIL IT'S YOU.
ONCE YOU'RE SAFELY AWAY ACCESS THIS NAV FILE AND THE UNIT WILL GUIDE YOU TO THE PRISON WORLD.
AND THEN WHAT?
ASSUMING I EVEN ACCEPT THIS HALF BAKED MISSION. HOW WOULD I KNOW WHICH PRISONER TO FREE?
WHAT'S HIS NAME? WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

"I HAVE NO IDEA. THERE AREN'T ANY PICTURES OR VIDS OF HIM. ALL I KNOW IS HE'S SUPPOSEDLY KEPT IN THE *CENTRAL VAULT*"
LOOK, KID, YOU'VE GOTTA COME *WITH* ME! KOMPTIN WILL *KILL* YOU WHEN HE FINDS OUT I'M GONE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I'LL
TRAITOR!
YOU'VE CROSSED THE *LINE*, KAMFIR!
BROTHER OR NOT, YOU'RE GONNA PAY FOR THAT!
HOLD YOUR FIRE, KOMPTIN
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING IT'S *ME* YOU WANT

THROOM

TIME TO GO, KAINE!

KZAK

KZAK

NO, YOU DON'T!

NOW KAINE

WAITAMINUTE

DRAKE! BRING THE KID!

ZARK

FAPP

EXCUSE ME

I'D PREFER YOU STICK AROUND!
THRAK
DRAKE! TELL ME YOU HAVE BACKUP!
YES, PLEASE DO. IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT I GET MY OWN HANDS DIRTY.
I FIND IT RATHER EXHILARATING.
BRACE YOURSELF FOR A THRILL!

IT ISN'T EVERY DAY THAT SOMEONE OF YOUR STATURE GETS TO BE THE FIRST SACRIFICE--
--TO A GODDESS REBORN!

STORYTELLERS

TONY BEDARD
WRITER

PAUL PELLETIER
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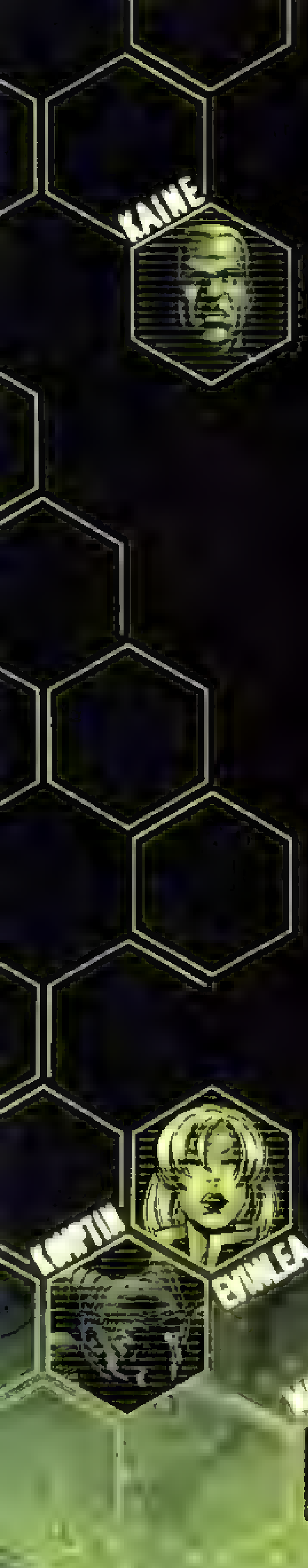

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One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

In order to rescue Kaine from Komptin, the Atlantean named Gammid restored the full powers of all the fugitives — including the unpredictable Evinlea. Now the erstwhile demigoddess faces off against Negation General Kryzorr, threatening a clash of powers that could tear the world asunder...

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I TOLD YOU SHE'D RUIN EVERYTHING!

LET'S NOT RUSH TO JUDGMENT CORRIN

I KNOW HER, GAMMID! YOU DON'T!

ALL SHE EVER CARES ABOUT IS WHAT SHE WANTS. AND RIGHT NOW, SHE'D RATHER FIGHT THAN RESCUE DRAKE AND KAINE!

YOU SHOULD'VE LEFT EVINLEA'S POWERS SCRAMBLED.

PRIDE WON'T LET HER RUN AWAY

Mm YOU MAY HAVE DECIDED THE OUTCOME ALREADY CORRIN, BUT SHE IS STILL WEIGHING HER OPTIONS

NOW THAT SHE'S BACK AT FULL STRENGTH, SHE'LL JUST HAVE TO TEST HERSELF AGAINST THAT NEGATION GENERAL!

" TRY TO HAVE A LITTLE MORE *FAITH* IN OUR ERSTWHILE GODDESS."

ISN'T THIS A BIT *UNCHARACTERISTIC* OF YOU, PRISONER EVINLEA?

BASED ON YOUR FILE, THE *LAST* THING I'D EXPECT FROM YOU IS *SELF SACRIFICE* IN DEFENSE OF FRIENDS

EVINLEA, WE HAVE TO TAKE THE *KID* WITH US

SILENCE, KAINE

I AM NOT HERE FOR YOU *WORMS* MY SO CALLED FRIENDS I AM HERE TO TEACH THE *NEGATION* WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE WAR ON *THE FIRST*

SO IF THEY ARE *NOT* YOUR FRIENDS, THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF WE *SHOOT* THEM

THE *KID*, EVINLEA?

PERMISSION TO *FIRE*, GENERAL?

DON'T BOTHER

AHH!

WAT

CHATTERING NUISANCES

NO! NAME WAS MINE!

AT EASE, KOMPTIN' THAT MAY HAVE LOOKED LIKE THEY WERE VAPORIZED. BUT IT FELT LIKE A TELEPORT

VERY PERCEPTIVE AH WELL. SLEIGHT OF

STOP!

BLAST!

GENERAL KRYZORR I ah

THERE IS ONLY *ONE* THING I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU RIGHT NOW, *CONVICT!*

TELL ME WHAT IN CHARON'S NAME YOUR *BROTHER* WAS UP TO, BECAUSE IT SURE LOOKS LIKE HE *UNTIED* KAINE AND PROVIDED AN *ESCAPE ROUTE!*

YOU HAD A *SECURITY LEAK* IN YOUR OWN FAMILY AND YOU DIDN'T *KNOW?!*

UNACCEPTABLE, KOMPTIN! AND YOU ACTUALLY EXPECTED ME TO *REINSTATE* YOU..?!

SIR, I HAVE JUST *DISCOVERED* THAT KAMFIR IS

HE IS

MY BROTHER IS SOMEHOW MIXED UP WITH THE *RESISTANCE*

GENERAL PLEASE MY CAREER

IT'S ALL I HAVE IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED !

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE IT MEANS MORE TO ME THAN ANYTHING ANYTHING!

PROVE IT, CONVICT

PLUG THE LEAK

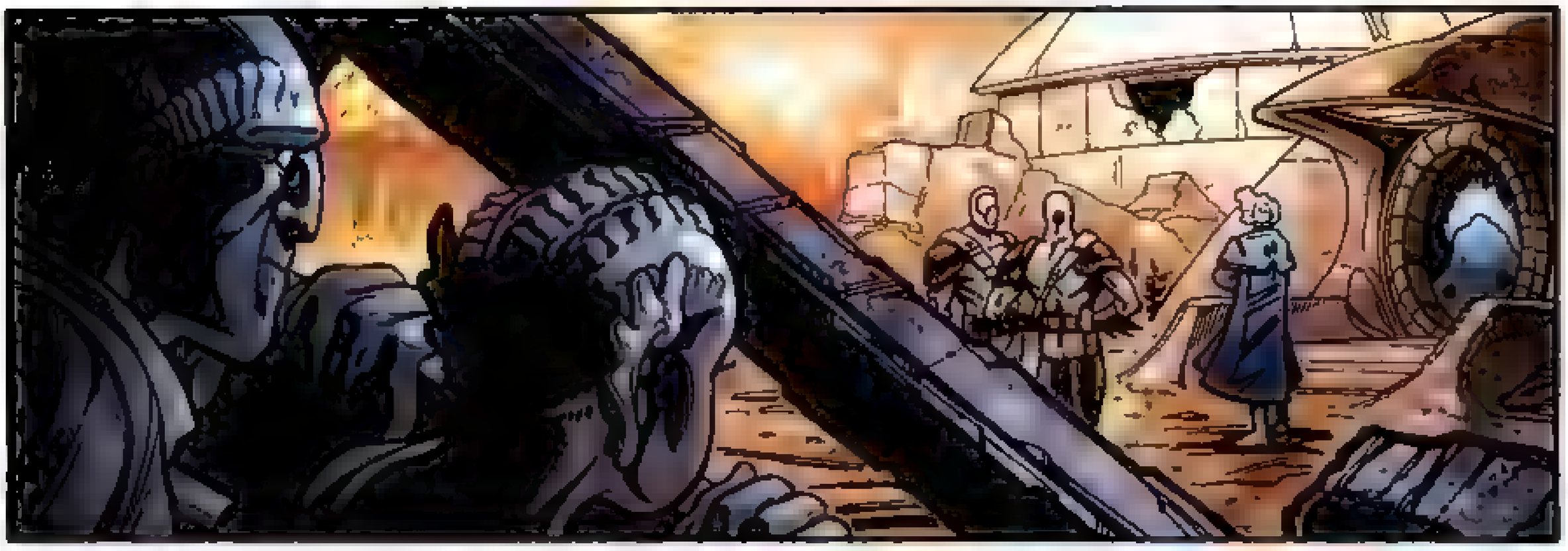
KOMPTIN

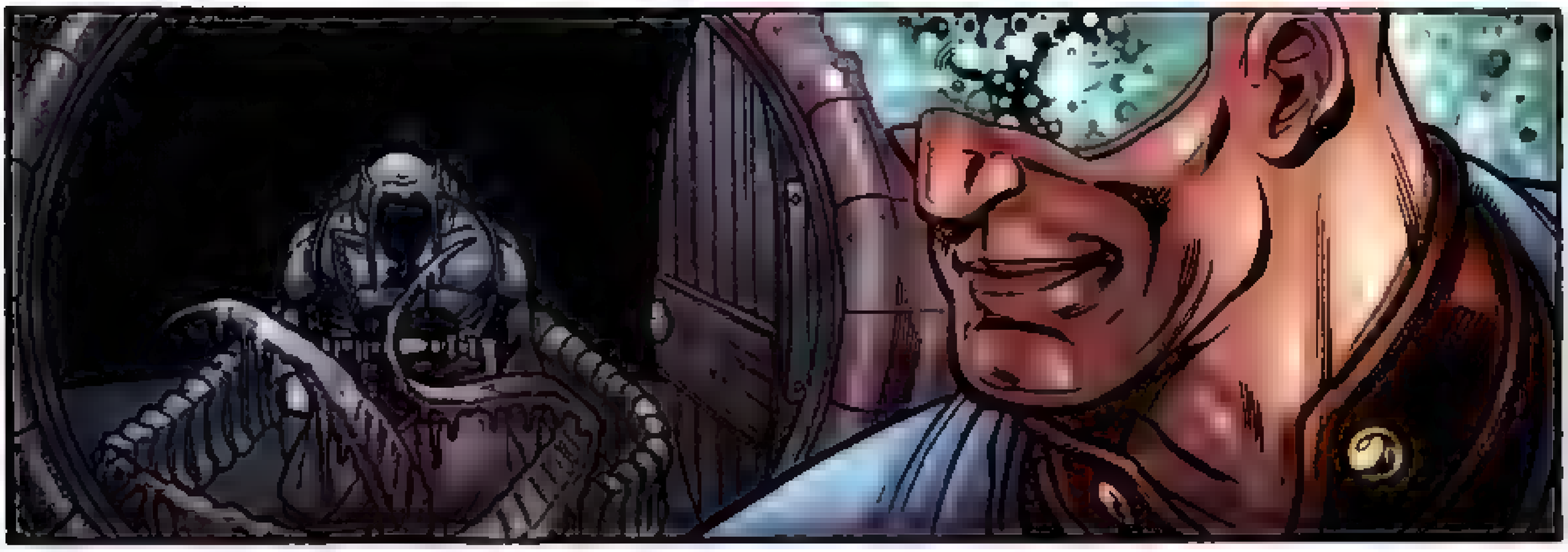
SON ?

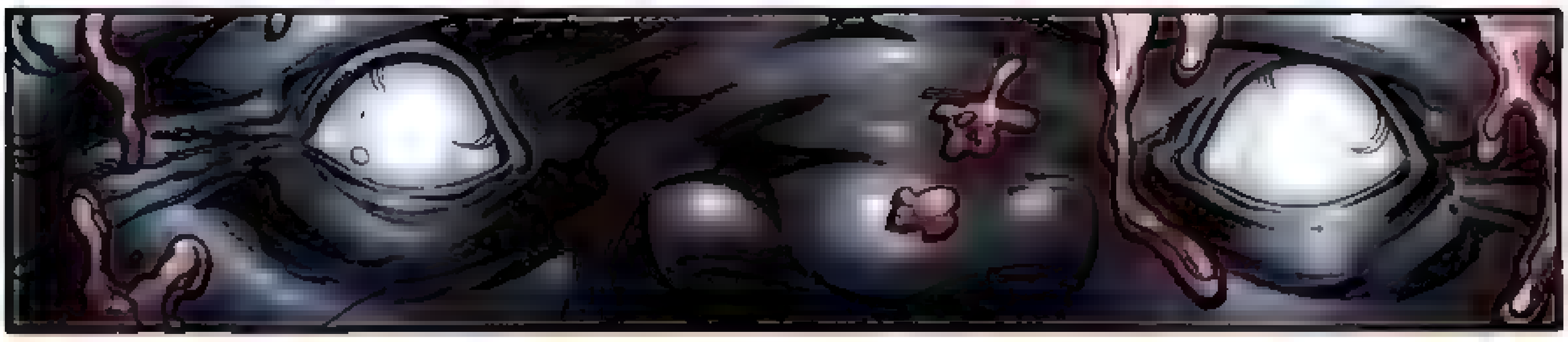
RRAGHHH!

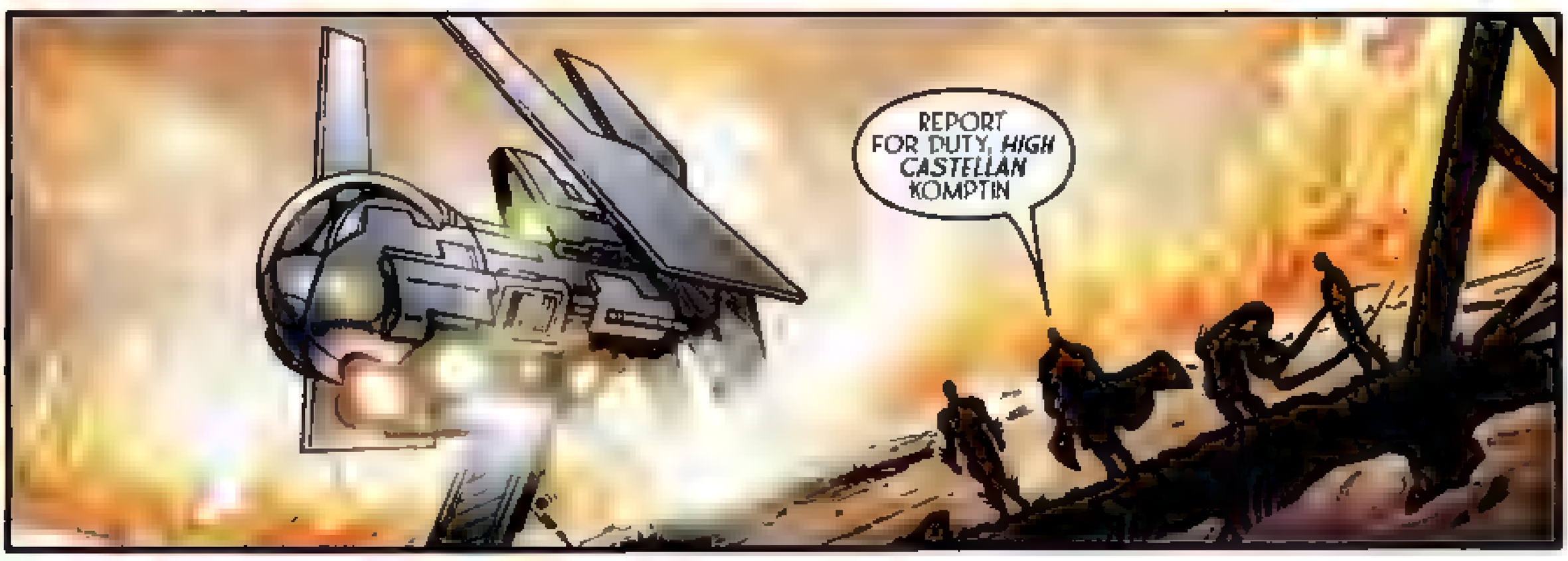
KAMFIR! MY BABY--

-aurk-








REPORT FOR DUTY, HIGH CASTELLAN KOMPTIN

THERE IS ALWAYS WORK FOR A SOLDIER LIKE YOU

KAINE! IT'S SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK!

WE THOUGHT WE'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!

WHERE IS HE?

WELL DONE, EVINLEA

SURPRISED THAT I ACTUALLY FOLLOWED THE PLAN .?

NEVER MET A MAN WHO WAS SO HARD TO KILL

ARE YOU SURE YOU DO NOT HAVE SOME SAURIAN IN YOU, KAINE ?

DID LIZ JUST CRACK A JOKE?

WHERE IS HE?

EVINLEA! WHERE'S THE KID?

WHAT "KID"?

THE YOUNGEST KAL MAN N THE ROOM! KOMPTIN'S LITTLE BROTHER! I TOLD YOU TO BRING HIM IN!

YOU WERE YAMMERING ON AND ON IT WAS MOST DISTRACTING

I ASKED YOU TO DO ONE THING!

SAVE

THE

KID!

HE HELPED ME AND WE LEFT HIM AT THE MERCY OF HIS PSYCHO BROTHER!

WESTIN! SCAN THE HOUSE FOR A TEENAGER! WE GOTTA GO BACK FOR HIM!

THEN IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE

KAINE WHAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE?

I SAVED YOUR LIFE, KAINE I EXPECT GRATITUDE, NOT REPROACH YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER TO WHOM YOU ARE SPEAKING

Uh, KAINE ? I'M NOT READING ANY LIFE SIGNS DOWN IN THAT HOUSE GOT A COUPLE OF FADING THERMAL SIGS, THOUGH

sighs. LISTEN UP! WHILE I WAS DOWN THERE I LEARNED OF AN INTERPLANETARY *RESISTANCE MOVEMENT* AGAINST THE NEGATION EMPIRE

THE PROBLEM IS, THEIR *LEADER* IS BEING HELD IN A PRISON FACILITY LIKE THE ONE THAT *WE* ESCAPED FROM

I HAVE THE *LOCATION* OF THAT PRISON WORLD RIGHT *HERE*

IF WE CAN *FREE* THIS INDIVIDUAL, WE CAN FINALLY START BUILDING A NETWORK OF *ALLIES* HERE IN NEGATION SPACE!

AND I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WE NEED ALL THE FRIENDS WE CAN *GET!*

ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT US TO BREAK *INTO* PRISON?!

WHO DID YOU GET THIS INFORMATION FROM?

KOMPTIN'S *BROTHER*

Um. NOT TO STATE THE *OBVIOUS*, BUT DID YOU CONSIDER THIS MIGHT BE *DISINFORMATION?*

YOU KNOW A *TRAP?*

WHEN WE FIRST MET, IT TOOK ME *WEEKS* TO WIN YOUR CONFIDENCE

AM I GONNA HAVE TO START ALL OVER AGAIN, OR CAN ANY OF YOU STILL TAKE MY *WORD* AND TRUST MY *JUDGMENT?*

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HOW YOU SAVED MY *LIFE*, KAINE

IF *YOU* TRUST THIS INFORMATION, THEN SO DO I

THANKS, MATUA WHAT ABOUT THE *REST* OF YOU?

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, *GAMMID?*

Oh, SO *HE'S* IN CHARGE NOW, huh?

WELL, I, uh DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING *OFFICIAL*

SIR! WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, *SIR?*

WANDER AIMLESSLY AND HOPE FOR *GOOD LUCK?* OR *ACT* ON THIS INTEL AND CONNECT WITH THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO MIGHT ACTUALLY *HELP* US?

RELAX, MISTER KAINE. WE'VE ALL BEEN THROUGH A LOT. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOUR FRIENDS FOR NOT WANTING TO PICK A FIGHT

WESTIN? GO AHEAD AND SET A *COURSE* FOR THIS PRISON FACILITY!

KAINE, LET'S GET YOU SOME CLEAN *CLOTHES* AND A *MEAL*

IT'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO TALK SOME MORE AND DECIDE IF WE *REALLY* WANT TO DO THIS

YOU *SEE?* I TRY TO BE GOOD AND *THIS* IS THE THANKS I GET

EVINLEA, STOP. YOU'RE *EMBARRASSING* YOURSELF

MIND YOUR *TONGUE*, MORTAL. I HAVE A VERY SHORT TEMPER--AND A *VERY* LONG MEMORY

KAINE, I COULDN'T TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THESE PEOPLE IF I *WANTED* TO I DON'T HAVE YOUR WAR TIME EXPERIENCE OR TACTICAL KNOW HOW

A.L. I HAVE IS RAW POWER, AND *THAT'S* WHAT THEY'RE RESPONDING TO

LOOK, I DON'T *CARE* ABOUT BEING IN CHARGE I JUST WANT US TO DO WHAT WE *NEED* TO DO TO PROTECT OURSELVES AND FIND A WAY HOME

WHAT IS *THIS*, ANOTHER VERSION OF THE SIGIL?

YES APPARENTLY MINE *"FILTERS"* NEGATION ENERGIES SO THEY DON'T *BACKFIRE*

IT EVEN ALLOWED ME TO *RESTORE* YOUR FRIENDS TO FULL POWER

INCLUDING *EVINLEA*?

ESPECIALLY EVINLEA

THAT WAS PROBABLY A *MISTAKE*

I COULD SAY THE SAME OF YOUR *PRISON BREAK-IN* IDEA, BUT I'M WILLING TO *RISK IT* FOR THE MAN WHO RESCUED ME FROM THE EMPEROR

THEN WE *WILL* GO EXTRACT THIS RESISTANCE LEADER?

IF HE IS WHERE YOU *SAY* HE IS

AND *AFTERWARD* ASSUMING WE'RE STILL ALIVE MAYBE YOU CAN HELP ME SOLVE A LITTLE *MYSTERY*

CONCERNING

CONCERNING ONE OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS ON THE SHIP

AND HER APPARENTLY *INDESTRUCTIBLE* BABY

Negation
World
pOO74L
Imperial
Detention
Center

MOVE IT, CONVICTS! WE HAVE A SCHEDULE TO KEEP!

KEEP SLACKING AND THE CASTELIAN WILL REASSIGN YOU TO THE INCINERATORS!

THANK YOU

I'M IN GO AHEAD WITH THE DIVERSION

PIECE'A CAKE

COPY. WHILE YOU'RE SEARCHING, MAKE SURE YOU KEEP HEADING--

TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE COMPLEX I KNOW, KAINE

OF COURSE YOU DO GOOD LUCK, MATUA

LADIES? YOU'RE ON

FWOOSH

BDEEP BDEEP

PERIMETER BREACH, SIR!

WHERE?

MAIN GATE

THEY WEREN'T THERE A SECOND AGO--!

SOUND THE ALARM! GET EVERY AVAILABLE GUARD OUT THERE!

ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL! SECURITY BREACH, SECTOR ONE! PRIMARY DEFENSE PROTOCOLS ARE IN EFFECT!

THIS IS NOT A DRILL REPEAT NOT A DRILL!

SHOULDN'T WE GO *HELP*?

NOT UNLESS YOU WANT TO GET *COURT MARTIALED* WE STAY AT OUR POST UNTIL *SECONDARY* PROTOCOLS ARE

INCOMING!

I THINK WE GOT THEIR *ATTENTION!*

LET'S HOPE MATUA FINISHES *QUICKLY!*

MATUA TO KAINE I'M AT THE VAULT BUT IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME TO CRACK TELL DRAKE TO HOME IN ON MY SIGNAL

CAN YOU GET IN THERE?

YOU KNOW THE SCORE KAINE LONG AS I KNOW *WHERE* SOMEONE OR SOMETHING IS, NOTHING CAN KEEP ME FROM *TAKING* IT

YOU JUST BETTER BE *RIGHT* ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE THE VAULT

THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS IT'S A *COMFORT* TO KNOW I CAN STILL CALL UPON THE EAGLES OF ATYAAH, EVEN IN *THIS* GODFORSAKEN

KRAKK

KNOCK KNOCK

I TAKE IT THE LUCKY JAILBIRD IS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THAT *BIG DOOR* ?

ASSUMING NAME'S INFO IS ACCURATE

MAYBE YOU CAN PULL OUT THE *LOCK*?

WHY STOP AT THE LOCK?

KRUNK-K-K

KRAKK-K-K

SHREEK

SEVEN SPIRITS

YOU OKAY?

FINE. JUST MAKE SURE THE ONE WE CAME TO RESCUE IS OKAY TOO

KLANG

THWIP

!

MATUA--!

DRAKE! MATUA! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE OUR OBJECTIVE IN HAND SO WE CAN WITHDRAW THE GIRLS!

DRAKE? MATUA? DO YOU COPY?

SAY AGAIN, I DIDN'T COPY!

KAINE, WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!

IT'S A SETUP!

WHAT KIND OF SETUP? IS THE VAULT EMPTY?

N-NO

GO ON. TELL YOUR FRIENDS WHAT YOU'VE FOUND IN HERE.

B

BO

ВОНГА !

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PAUL PELLETIER
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DAVE MEIKIS
INKER

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TROY PETERI
LETTERER

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CALYX

Pencils and colors by Morry Hollowell
Inks by Dave Meikis

"A rip-roarin' roller coaster of a read!" — *Comics International*

CrossGen

21 SEPT

NEGATION

Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
Laura Martin

USA $2.95 CAN $4.00

crossgen.com

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the space pirate **Mercer Drake**, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the magician **Matua**, came from inherently powerful races. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named **Obregon Kaine** led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Having learned that a resistance movement exists within Negation Space, Kaine convinces the others to rescue the mysterious Resistance Leader from a Negation prison world. They know this prisoner is held within the heavily guarded central vault, but the opportunity of teaming with a network of local allies seems worth the risk. Unfortunately, upon breaking into the vault, Matua and Drake find a fearsome Negation Lawbringer awaiting them. Is this a trap? Or is the Lawbringer the final guardian of the Resistance Leader's cell? Either way, with Drake trounced, Matua is in for the fight of his life...

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Mr.X

?
FATHER! YOU'RE BACK!
AFANOR? SOSEFINA ? TELEA ? BUT YOU'RE ALL
COME ON! MOM WANTS TO SEE YOU!
THIS HAS TO BE A DREAM THERE'S NO WAY I'M BACK ON CIRESS
SEVEN SPIRITS. I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN HOW BEAUTIFUL THE DJINN LANDS ARE
I KNOW YOU COULD NOT HAVE FORGOTTEN ME, HUSBAND
SARIA! NOW I KNOW I'M DREAMING
THIS IS NOT A DREAM HUSBAND YOU ARE FREE OF THE NEGATION YOU ARE BEYOND THEIR REACH NOW
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NEGATION? COME TO THINK OF IT, HOW COULD I BE DREAMING RIGHT NOW?
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER, I WAS FIGHTING A LAWBRINGER

!

WHAK

MATUA! ARE YOU OKAY? WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THERE!

KAINE! DRAKE'S DOWN, AND I SORT OF BLACKED OUT FOR A MOMENT!

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER- JUST SEND HELP!

SHRANG

YESSS, PRISONER MATUA... BY ALL MEANSSSS, HASTEN YOUR COMPANIONSSSS' DEMISSSE!

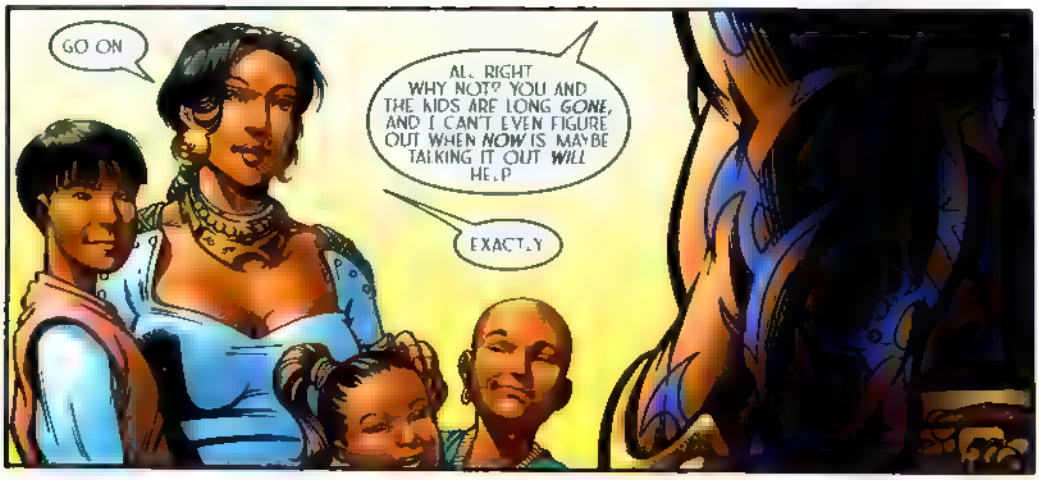
WHA ?!
CONCENTRATE, MATUA! THE SPELL OF SCIMITARS IS OUR DEADLIEST ATTACK INCANTATION
JUST REMEMBER NEVER TO PERFORM IT IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE
EMIR SAYAD!
IT'S IT'S WONDERFUL TO SEE YOU AGAIN YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT AN IMPACT YOU HAD ON MY LIFE
ACOLYTE MATUA, DO YOU MOCK ME OR HAS THE SUN ADDLED YOUR MIND?
NO, SIR! I SIMPLY MEANT-
PRAISE WILL BUY YOU NO FAVOR FROM ME I ONLY CARE ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU LEARN
NOW TELL ME HOW THE DJINN GUILD FIRST INVENTED MAGIC
I T WAS AN ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE DJINN SPIRITS EMIR THEY HAD BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE ENERGIES THAT SUSTAINED THEM

VERY GOOD, ACOLYTE
AND IN HELPING THESE MIGHTY SPIRITS WHO LOOKED UPON US WITH SCORN -
WE LEARNED TO HARNESS POWERS THAT TRANSFORMED OUR LIVES
WHAT WE CAME TO CALL "MAGIC" IS NOW THE CENTRAL PILLAR OF SOCIETY. BUT WE ONLY LEARNED OF IT BECAUSE WE ACTED FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS -NOT FOR OURSELVES
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I AM STRESSING THIS POINT TO YOU?
BECAUSE
YES, I REMEMBER NOW
MY PARENTS SENT ME TO THE GUILD SCHOOL AGAINST MY WISHES. AND YOU KNEW I ONLY STAYED HERE TO SATISFY THEIR EXPECTATIONS
YOU WERE TELLING ME THAT EVEN IF I WASN'T IN IT FOR MYSELF, THESE STUDIES WOULD ONE DAY HELP ME IN WAYS I COULD NOT IMAGINE
WHY THE PAST TENSE, ACOLYTE?
BECAUSE THIS ALL HAPPENED YEARS AGO, EMIR
EITHER I'M HALLUCINATING AND MY REAL BODY IS BACK IN NEGATION SPACE GETTING TORN APART
OR ELSE I'M SOMEHOW BOUNCING THROUGH TIME

ON HER WAY! REPEAT EVINLEA IS ON HER WAY! JUST STAY ALIVE A LITTLE LONGER!
NOT AGAIN !
SQUARK
m MATUA ?
DRAKE...!
gah!
CHOOM
SSSTAY PUT, PRISSSSONER DRAKE. I WILL SSSLAY YOU SSSSOON ENOUGH!

YESSS...YOU THOUGHT YOU HAD PENETRATED THE CENTRAL VAULT...
...BUT YOU FELL *SHORT* OF YOUR OBJECTIVE BY *ONE DOOR*...
YOU WILL NEVER *SSSEE* WHAT LIESSS WITHIN THAT CELL.
YOU WILL COME *THISSS* CLOSSSSE TO SSSUCCESSS... AND *FAIL* AT THE THRESHOLD.
SHRAK!
EEYAAHH!
TIME TO *DIE*, YOU COSMIC ABORTION!
PRISSSONER *EVINLEA*, I WASSS *HOPING* THAT WASSS YOU...

!
DAMMIT! WHAT IN THE FOUR MOONS IS HAPPENING TO ME?
BE CALM, HUSBAND
TELL ME WHAT IS TROUBLING YOU, AND I WILL TRY TO HELP MAKE SENSE OF IT
WHAT'S TROUBLING ME?! SEEING YOU AND THE KIDS, FOR ONE!
SARIA, IT HAS BEEN THREE VERY DIFFICULT YEARS SINCE YOU WERE TAKEN FROM ME, AND JUST WHEN I WAS GETTING OVER THAT LOSS, I WAS SNATCHED AWAY FROM CIRESS ENTIRELY!


GO ON
ALL RIGHT WHY NOT? YOU AND THE KIDS ARE LONG GONE, AND I CAN'T EVEN FIGURE OUT WHEN NOW IS MAYBE TALKING IT OUT WILL HELP
EXACTLY

A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, I WOKE UP IN ANOTHER UNIVERSE— ONE DOMINATED BY AN EMPIRE THAT CALLS ITSELF THE NEGATION
I'VE SPENT EVERY MOMENT SINCE ON THE RUN FROM NEGATION FORCES, TRYING TO FIND MY WAY BACK HOME
THE ONLY BRIGHT SPOT IS THAT I'VE HAD SOME HELP I MADE SOME FRIENDS WHEN WE WERE FIRST

IMPRISONED
Huh?
ANOTHER TIME SHIFT A SECOND AGO, I WAS WITH MY WIFE AND KIDS. NOW I'M BACK ON THE PRISON WORLD IN A MINUTE I'LL PROBABLY BE BACK IN THAT VAULT WITH THE LAWBRINGER
"LAWBRINGER"?
DID YOU SAY YOU HAVE A WIFE AND KIDS?
YES I GUESS I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT THEM THE TOPIC WAS TOO PAINFUL, IN SPITE OF OUR FRIENDSHIP
Uh huh. NO OFFENSE, BUT I WOULDN'T CALL YOUR BEATING ME TO A PULP EVERY TIME I TRY TO SEE EVINLEA MUCH OF A "FRIENDSHIP"
WE DO BECOME FRIENDS IT JUST HASN'T HAPPENED YET AT THIS POINT. WE HAVEN'T EVEN FIGURED OUT THIS PLANET'S A NEGATION PRISON
WHAT'S A "NEGATION"?
THERE HAS TO BE SOME REASON WHY I'M JUMPING AROUND LIKE THIS I WONDER IF THIS IS THAT LAWBRINGER'S DOING?
COULD SHE SOMEHOW BE SCRAMBLING MY MEMORIES?
OR DID SHE REALLY CAST ME ADRIFT IN TIME? BECAUSE THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A MEMORY IT'S TOO

REAL
WHAK
ENJOYING THE SHOW, PRISSSONER MATUA?

I KNOW I AM.
GENERAL KRYZZZOR WARNED MY FATHER THAT YOU ESSSCAPEES MIGHT COME HERE.
HE KNEW YOU MIGHT TRY TO FREE THE LEADER OF THE RESSSISSSTANCE MOVEMENT.
FATHER CHOSSSE ME TO GUARD THE VAULT.
IT ISSS THE GREATESSST HONOR HE HASSS EVER BESSSTOWED UPON ME.
CHOOM
aagh!
FATHER CHOSSSE WELL.

SSSO... YOUR FRIENDSSS OFFERED LESS OF A FIGHT THAN I HAD *HOPED* FOR. WHAT WILL *YOU* DO, I WONDER?
YOUR *FILE* SAYSSS YOU COME FROM A WORLD OF *MAGIC*...
ANY *TRICKSSS* UP YOUR SLEEVE THAT I WOULD FIND IMPRESSSIVE...?
DO NOT *FEAR* THE SPELL OF SCIMITARS, MATUA. IT MAY ONE DAY BE YOUR LAST HOPE FOR VICTORY
FOR THE STRONGER YOUR FOE, THE *HARDER* YOUR SCIMITARS WILL STRIKE HIM
AND WHILE YOU KNOW THE *DANGERS* INHERENT TO THIS SPELL, NOW IS THE TIME TO *FORGET* DANGER. TO FORGET *YOURSELF*

YOU PROMISED YOURSELF TO ME AND THE CHILDREN, EVEN THOUGH MARRIAGE *EXCLUDED* YOU FROM THE HIGHEST RANKS IN THE DJINN GUILD
BEST DECISION I EVER MADE
YOU WERE MY *FRIEND* ON THE PRISON WORLD WHEN ALMOST EVERYONE ELSE THOUGHT I WAS NOTHING BUT A *PEST*
YOU EVEN RISKED GETTING ON *EVINLEA'S* BAD SIDE TO STAND BY ME
MY ONLY REGRET ABOUT BEFRIENDING YOU, KANE WAS THAT I DIDN'T DO IT *SOONER*
IF I HAD PLAYED IT *SAFE* IF I HAD ONLY EVER PURSUED WHAT *I* WANTED, I WOULD NEVER HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE THINGS THAT GAVE MY LIFE *MEANING*
YES ACOLYTE THAT WAS *ALWAYS* OUR GREATEST LESSON
THERE WOULD *BE* NO MAGIC IF OUR ANCESTORS HAD NOT RISKED THE WRATH OF GOD TO HELP DESTITUTE SPIRITS IN THEIR HOUR OF NEED
IT IS OUR *RISKS* AND OUR *SACRIFICES* THAT DEFINE US, MATUA DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
YES, EMIR SAYAD
THEN REPEAT AFTER ME

IF YOU THINK THISSS LITTLE DISSSPLAY WILL~

-EEYAA--

SHIKKA

CHOK

SHIKKA

SHIKKA

"THE SPELL OF SCIMITARS IS OUR DEADLIEST ATTACK INCANTATION

SHIKKA

SHIKKA

"...UST REMEMBER NEVER TO PERFORM IT IN AN ENCLOSED SPACE"

SHIKKA

SHIKKA

I SHOULD HAVE FIGURED IT OUT THE MOMENT I SAW YOU!
PERHAPS DEEP DOWN YOU *DID* BUT IT IS A DIFFICULT THING TO ACCEPT
YES, IT *IS*
I NEVER *DID* COME TO TERMS WITH IT WHEN YOU AND THE CHILDREN *DIED*
I WASN'T SO BAD, DADDY
IT WAS FOR *ME*, BUT THAT'S ALL OVER NOW
I ONLY HOPE WHAT I DID FOR MY FRIENDS WAS *ENOUGH*
IT WAS, HUSBAND. THE CREATURE IS DEAD. YOU SAVED THEM ALL.
YOU SIMPLY HAD TO MAKE PEACE WITH THE *PRICE* YOU PAID BEFORE YOU COULD TRULY *JOIN US*.

HE WAS A *WORTHY* ALLY I SHALL RAISE HIS LIKENESS IN MY PALACE WHEN I RETURN TO ELYSIA
FAT LOTTA GOOD *THAT'LL* DO HIM
DO NOT CHEAPEN HIS SACRIFICE WITH *SARCASM*, DRAKE NOT NOW
..
RIGHT SORRY
ALMOST LOOKS LIKE HE'S *SMILING*
I WONDER WHAT THE *EMPEROR* WILL SAY WHEN HE FINDS OUT WE KILLED ONE OF HIS PRECIOUS LAWBRINGERS

OHHHHHH...
MY LORD--! PLEASE LET ME HELP YOU UP
AWAY!
ONE OF MY CHILDREN IS DEAD...
...AND THOSE RESPONSIBLE WILL SUFFER...

STATUS?
IT'S NOT GOOD, SIR
ALL PERSONNEL DEPLOYED TO THE MAIN GATE HAVE BEEN DEFEATED
SECTORCOM IS SENDING A STRIKER WING, BUT THEY WON'T GET HERE FOR ANOTHER HALF AN HOUR
WHAT ABOUT OUR GUEST?
THAT'S THE WORST PART, CASTELLAN
INTERNAL SENSORS INDICATE THAT LAWBRINGER LKQR IS DEAD
HAVE MY PERSONAL TRANSPORT PREPPED FOR IMMEDIATE LAUNCH!
REQUEST SECTORCOM'S PERMISSION TO USE THE EXTINCTION WAVE!
ALREADY DENIED, SIR! THE EMPEROR HIMSELF FORBIDS US TO SCORCH THE PLANET
HE MUST HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL IN MIND FOR THESE OUTLAWS
WE'D BEST NOT GET CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT

LET'S GO, GIRLS! KAINE SAYS THE CENTRAL VAULT IS DEAD AHEAD!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
WE WON
I THINK
WHOEVER'S IN HERE BETTER APPRECIATE WHAT WE WENT THROUGH TO SPRING HIM

RUNK
...oh, no
LORDS OF HALGEDAE, NO
WHAT, CORRIN?
CAN'T YOU SEE IT? CAN'T YOU TELL?!
LOOK AT ITS GARMENTS, ITS FLESH JUST FEEL THE AURA THAT THING PUTS OFF

THE LEADER OF THE RESISTANCE THE GREAT HOPE OF THIS UNIVERSE
IS A LAWBRINGER HIMSELF!
I SINCERELY HOPE YOU WON'T HOLD THAT AGAINST ME...

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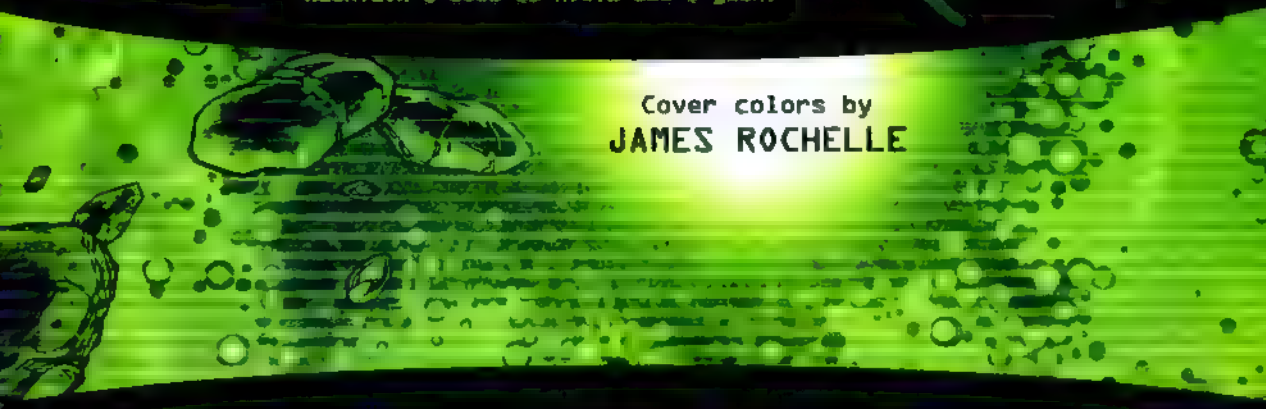
LETTERER

WARNING: Prisoner James Rochelle has escaped NEGATION! Armed with superior coloring skills and devastating sarcasm, Rochelle was last seen wandering a lonely stretch of ROUTE 666. Although we miss him greatly, NEGATION's loss is ROUTE 666's gain!

The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa



Cover colors by
JAMES ROCHELLE

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22
NOV

Negation

Tony Bedard
Dave Ross
Tom Simmons
John Rauch &
Eric Guerrero

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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, came from inherently powerful races. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

The fugitives' mission to rescue the Negation Resistance leader has ended in tragedy. The well-liked magician Matua was killed in a pitched battle against the female Lawbringer that guarded the rebel leader's cell. Adding to the pain of that loss is the discovery that the Resistance Leader is, himself, a Lawbringer! Now Charon has vowed revenge against those who slew his daughter, and Kaine's companions wonder if all this sacrifice just to free another of Charon's twisted offspring was really worth it...

Negation® Vol. 1 Issue 22 NOVEMBER 2003 FIRST PRINTING Published by CrossGen Comics, LLC Office of publication 4023 Tampa Road Suite 2400 Oldsmar Florida 34677 **Negation® CrossGen® CrossGen Comics® CrossGeneration®** and the **CrossGen sigil®** are registered trademarks of CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC. All prominent **Negation®** characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGen Intellectual Property LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGen Comics LLC. PRINTED IN CANADA

DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE A VICTORY PARADE
HEY EVERYBODY, THEY'RE COMING BACK OUT OF THE PRISON!
WELL HOW DID IT GO?
SEE FOR YOURSELF

IS...IS HE?
THERE WAS A LAWBRINGER GUARDING THE PRISONER WE CAME HERE TO FREE
MATOA SACRIFICED HIMSELF TO KILL IT SO WE COULD COMPLETE THE MISSION
IF YOU ASK ME, IT WAS A LOUSY TRADE
Jahene
I NEVER ASKED YOUR NOBLE FRIEND TO GIVE HIS LIFE FOR MY FREEDOM.
NEVERTHELESS, YOU MAY SOON FIND THAT IT WAS WORTH THE PRICE HE CHOSE TO PAY.
GODS BELOW THAT VOICE!
THIS IS THE LEADER OF THE NEGATION RESISTANCE MOVEMENT?
BUT HE'S A LAWBRINGER, TOO ISN'T HE?!

PLEASE. I DESPISE THAT APPELLATION. "LAWBRINGER."
DEATHBRINGER WOULD BETTER DESCRIBE MY BROTHERS AND SIS~
WE..L, YOU FINALLY DID IT. YOU F NALLY SCREWED UP ROYALLY!
WAS ALL OF THIS REALLY NECESSARY JUST TO SET LOOSE ANOTHER OF CHARON'S FREAKS?!
WEST N, I...I DIDN'T KNOW
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU DIDN'T YOU JUST HAD A HUNCH, AND THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD ENOUGH TO STAKE OUR LIVES ON!
PLEASE, MY FRIENDS, THERE IS NO TIME FOR THI...
I GET THE FEEL NG THIS WAS MORE ABOUT REASSERT NG YOUR LEADERSHIP~
~ONCE YOU SAW THAT GAMMID WAS EDGING YOU OUT
MORE NEGATION TROOPS WILL ARRIVE HERE SOON, AND THERE IS MUCH TO DO BEFORE THEN.
I ALWAYS WONDERED WHEN YOU WOULD PUSH YOUR LUCK TOO FAR
YOU ARE NOT LISTENING--!

!
HEY
Uh - !
IN A VERY SHORT WHILE, A SQUADRON OF NEGATION STRIKERS WILL ARRIVE TO *OBLITERATE* THIS INSTALLATION FROM THE FACE OF THE PLANET.
THAT IS, ASSUMING THE PRISON CASTELLAN DID NOT *ALREADY* ARM HIS EXTINCTION WAVE GENERATOR.
MEANWHILE, THERE ARE OVER ONE HUNDRED *POLITICAL DISSIDENTS* WAITING IN THEIR CELLS FOR US TO FREE THEM, STEAL A SHIP, AND FLY THEM TO SAFETY.
MAY I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST YOUR HELP IN *LIBERATING* THEM?
YES OF COURSE LAWB um *MISTER* ?
BLYQ.
DID YOU SAY "BLEAK"?
IF THE SHOE *FITS*...

WE SHOULD BE IN THERE, NOT THEM!
OUR SISTER IS DEAD! WE ALL FELT IT!
HOW CAN WE NOT SET OUT FOR REVENGE?!
AND YET WHO DOES FATHER CALL UPON TO AVENGE OUR FALLEN SIBLING?!
YOU HAVE FACED THESE...NEW ENFORCERS FATHER CREATED.
WHAT COULD QUALIFY THEM FOR THIS SACRED DUTY?
YES...HIS NEW TOYS. HIS...SIGIL-BEARERS.
TELL ME, BORM, HOW CAN THEY POSSIBLY DESERVE SUCH AN HONOR?

I CANNOT SAY WHAT FATHER WAS THINKING. ALL FIVE ARE MORTALS...
...THEY SAID PROFANE THINGS AND...INSULTED THE HERITAGE OF ALL LAWBRINGERS...
...AND YET FATHER CHOSE TO MARK THEM WITH HIS SIGN...!
ONE OF THE FIVE WAS MARKED FOR POWER EVEN BEFORE FATHER CHOSE HIM TO SERVE THE NEGATION...
I KILLED HIM ONCE, WHEN HE WAS MERELY A RUNAWAY PRISONER...
PRISONER JAVI COBIAN. HE WAS AMONG A GROUP ABDUCTED FROM THE BRIGHT UNIVERSE TO SERVE AS TEST SUBJECTS FOR THE INVASION PLANNERS.
I THOUGHT PUNCHING A HOLE THROUGH HIM WAS SUFFICIENT TO EXPUNGE HIM. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THOROUGH.
NOW, FATHER FINDS HIM VALUABLE ENOUGH TO RIP FROM THE GRAVE AND IMBUE WITH NEW LIFE.
WHY?

I'VE ALREADY BEEN *OVER* THIS WITH YOUR TWO HEADED TWIN, THERE
THE EMPEROR *PREFERS* US, BECAUSE AT LEAST WE'RE *SANE*
WHAT YOU *ARE* IS *DEAD!*
GO AHEAD
CALL DOWN THE LIGHTNING

QZTR...
MY APOLOGIES, FATHER.
I DID NOT MEAN TO...DOUBT YOU...

I OWE *NONE* OF YOU ANY EXPLANATION FOR *ANYTHING* I DO.
REMEMBER THAT.

HOWEVER, THIS *ONE* TIME I SHALL INDULGE YOU.
THERE ARE TWO REASONS THAT I *BRANDED* THOSE FOUR VOLUNTEERS WITH MY POWER, AND RESURRECTED THE *HUMAN* TO LEAD THEM...

ONE: I WISH TO ELEVATE *EVERY* NEGATION CITIZEN BY *EMPOWERING* THEM AS I HAVE EMPOWERED THOSE FOUR.
I NEEDED TO KNOW THAT IT WAS *POSSIBLE*-- THAT A SIGIL COULD *ENHANCE* SPECIES NATIVE TO NEGATION SPACE THE WAY IT DOES HUMANS.

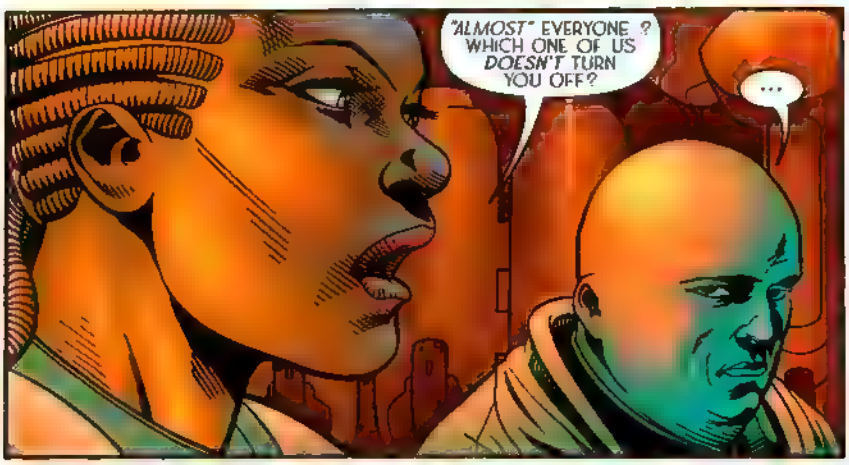
"*TWO:* I NEEDED TO KNOW IF THE PEOPLES OF THE BRIGHT UNIVERSE COULD *TRULY* ACCEPT ME IN THEIR HEARTS AS LORD AND LIBERATOR.
"JAVI'S CONVERSION *PROVED* IT CAN HAPPEN. THE INVASION MAY NOW PROCEED IN EARNEST--
"--AS SOON AS JAVI PASSES HIS *FINAL* TEST: THE SLAUGHTER OF HIS FORMER *FRIENDS*..."

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL THE GUARDS?
I DON'T KNOW IT HAS TO BE RELATED TO ALL THAT NOISE EARLIER
QUIET SOMEONE'S COMING--!
I'M JUST SAYING THAT THESE NEW RIFTS IN THE GROUP ARE STARTING TO WORRY ME
ESPECIALLY WITH HALF THE GROUP THINKING THAT NEW FELLOW GAMMID, SHOULD LEAD US INSTEAD OF KAINE
I HAPPEN TO AGREE WITH THOSE PEOPLE FLUXOR
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO KAINE WHILE HE WAS SEPARATED FROM US
HE SEEMS CHANGED SOMEHOW NOT AS SURE OF HIMSELF

SO YOU TWO ENEMIES OF THE STATE?
WITH PRIDE
GOOD IF WE SPRING ENOUGH PRISONERS LIKE YOU, IT MIGHT SEEM A LITTLE MORE WORTH THE PRICE WE'VE PAID.
COME ON, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE
WE'LL MEET THE OTHERS IN THE SPACECRAFT HANGAR
I'M STILL SHOCKED BY WHAT YOU SAID I THOUGHT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE WOULD STAND BY KAINE
WHY?
I...I ALWAYS EXPECTED THAT, SOONER OR LATER, YOU TWO WOULD YOU KNOW MATE

WHAT?! WHY?
WELL YOU [illegible] COMPATIBLE

Oh, SO JUST BECAUSE I'M BLACK AND HE'S BLACK, NATURALLY WE'RE GONNA PAIR OFF WITH EACH OTHER?
[illegible] ah, MEANT NO OFFENSE. I DON'T HAVE A REAL GRASP OF YOUR ETHNIC OR CULTURAL SENSITIVITIES
TO BE HONEST, I FIND ALMOST EVERY ONE OF YOU RATHER REPULSIVE ALL THAT HAIR, AND YOUR SMELL


"ALMOST" EVERYONE ? WHICH ONE OF US DOESN'T TURN YOU OFF?
...

THUSTRA

THUSTRA
THAT FIGURES!
ALL OF YOU ARE CRAZY ABOUT THUSTRA, 'CAUSE SHE NEVER SAYS A WORD! SHE JUST SITS THERE BATTING HER EYES AND STICKING OUT HER CHEST AND
MEN --!

PEOPLE WORK *EFFICIENTLY*, WE MAY YET EVACUATE THESE PRISONERS BEFORE THE STRIKERS ARRIVE.

GREAT, ONLY I'M NOT SO SURE THEY'RE MY *PEOPLE* ANYMORE

THAT ONE COULD HARDLY MISS THEIR *RESENTMENT* TOWARD YOU.

MATUA WAS WELL LIKED BY PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE IN THE GROUP

HE CHOSE TO GIVE HIS LIFE TO RESCUE ME.

MAYBE SO, BUT I PUT HIM IN THAT POSITION

HAS ANYONE FOUND THE *COMMANDER* OF THIS PRISON?

NEGATIVE NO SHIPS LEFT THE SURFACE, EITHER SO HE'S GOTTA BE HERE *SOMEWHERE*

" I EXPECT ONE OF US TO REPORT FINDING HIM ANY TIME NOW "
CORRIDOR'S CLEAR, CASTELLAN. LET'S MOVE
SHRAKT
KZAKK
PLEASE! STOP!
SPARE ME, AND YOUR REWARD WILL BE -

THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN OFFER THAT I CANNOT SIMPLY TAKE, YOU INSECT
YOU WILL LIVE ONLY IF YOU PROVE USEFUL TO ME CAN YOU FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS?
Y-YES
EXCELLENT I HAVE A PERSONAL MESSAGE FOR YOU TO DELIVER TO YOUR EMPEROR
YOU WILL REPEAT IT TO HIM EXACTLY AS I SAY IT, SO LISTEN CLOSELY

EVERYONE WE FREED IS LOADED IN THE TROOP TRANSPORT, BJYQ.
WE HAVE ONE JUST LIKE IT, IF YOU NEED HELP FLYING IT
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY. SEVERAL OF MY FELLOW PRISONERS ARE WELL-VERSED IN SUCH MATTERS.
SO WHAT'S THE NEXT MOVE?
WE SEPARATE. I NEED TO PLACE MY PEOPLE IN SEVERAL KEY HOT-SPOTS TO REKINDLE THE REVOLUTION.
YOUR PRESENCE WILL ONLY DRAW UNWANTED ATTENTION AT THIS DELICATE PHASE.
REST ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT YOU WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN CHARON'S OVERTHROW, ONCE ALL IS IN READINESS.
I SHALL CONTACT YOU WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT. UNTIL THEN, KEEP MOVING AND STAY ALIVE!
THAT'S IT?! "THANKS, NOW KEEP RUNNING"?!
I'D JUST AS SOON WE NEVER HEAR FROM HIM AGAIN!

WE'D BETTER GO BEFORE ANYONE ELSE SHOWS UP
I ALREADY TOOK CARE OF BURYING MATUA
HEY, GAMMID! WHAT ABOUT THIS OTHER SHIP? SHOULDN'T WE TAKE IT, TOO?
WHO'LL FLY IT? YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THEIR TECHNOLOGIES.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE ANYMORE I'VE BEEN TEACHING LIZ--er, THE LIZARD LADY HERE--HOW TO FLY THEIR SHIPS
PLUS, SHE, um ABSORBED A FEW POINTERS FROM SOME OF THE LOCALS SHE'S ENCOUNTERED
IT IS TRUE I'VE HAD A TASTE OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE
GREAT! WE COULD USE A BACKUP SHIP THIS ONE LOOKS BETTER ARMED, TOO
SO, WHO WANTS TO STAY IN THE OLD SHIP, AND WHO WANTS TO RIDE WITH LIZARD LADY?

I'LL GO WITH LIZ
I'LL STICK WITH GAMMID, IN THE TRANSPORT
ME TOO
SAME HERE
WHAT'S UP? DON'T ANY OF YOU WANT TO RIDE WITH LIZ?
LET'S JUST SAY I'D RATHER NOT BE THERE FOR KANE'S NEXT HUNCH
WELL, um WE'LL TAKE THIS UP LATER
RIGHT NOW, WHOEVER'S GOING IN THAT SHIP, GET IN. THE REST COME WITH ME

WHY DID YOU LET THEM GO?
JUST TELL ME WHAT SHE *SAID*, CASTELLAN
SHE MADE ME *MEMORIZE* IT SHE SAID IT WAS FOR THE *EMPEROR'S* EARS ALONE
BUT I GUESS *YOU'RE* THE NEXT BEST THING
HERE LIES MATUA
SHE SAID, "AS THE PLANETS ARE DRAWN TO ORBIT THE STARS, SO MUST I SURRENDER TO THE PULL OF YOUR POWER
"LET US MEET IN PERSON LET US FORM OUR **OWN** CONSTELLATION I OFFER MY COMPANIONS AS MY DOWRY I EXPECT MY FREEDOM IN DUE COURSE
"AND IN BETWEEN LET US SHARE A LOVE TO SHATTER WORLDS!"

THAT SOUNDS LIKE EVINLEA, ALL RIGHT
HER LOVE SURE SHATTERED MY WORLD
SHE USED ME AND I WAS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO LET HER THAT'S A FACT I HAD TO LIVE WITH AND DIE WITH
NO, TROCANTOR THAT IS AN INSULT WE WILL NEVER ALLOW

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LETTERER

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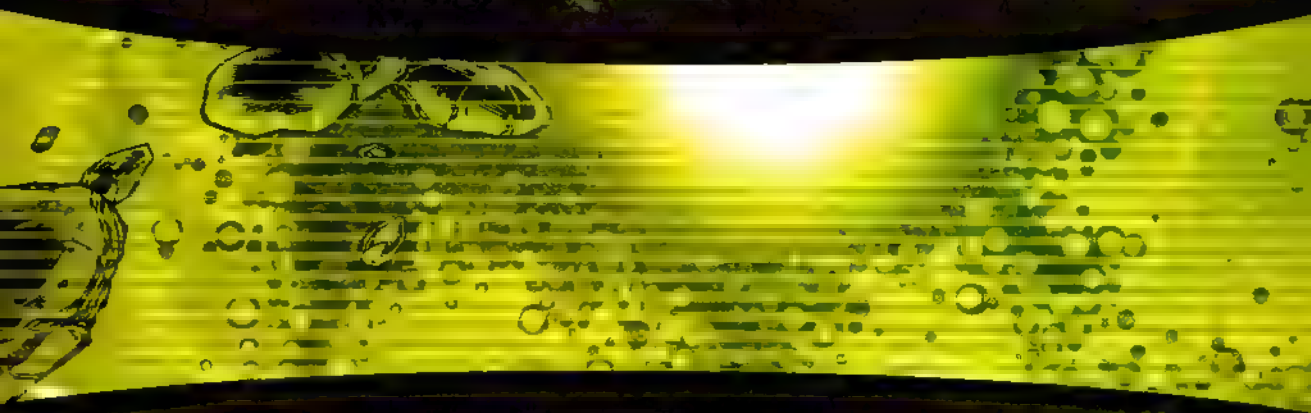

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23 NOV

NEGATION

Tony Bedard
Paul Pelletier
Dave Meikis
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One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Because they managed to slay one of Charon's feared Lawbringers, the Negation Emperor dispatched his team of Negation Sigil-Bearers to execute the fugitives. Led by former prisoner Javi, these elite new Negation assassins possess fearsome powers and a fanatical devotion to Charon. As Kaine and company make their way across enemy territory, little do they suspect that one of their closest allies seeks their utter destruction...

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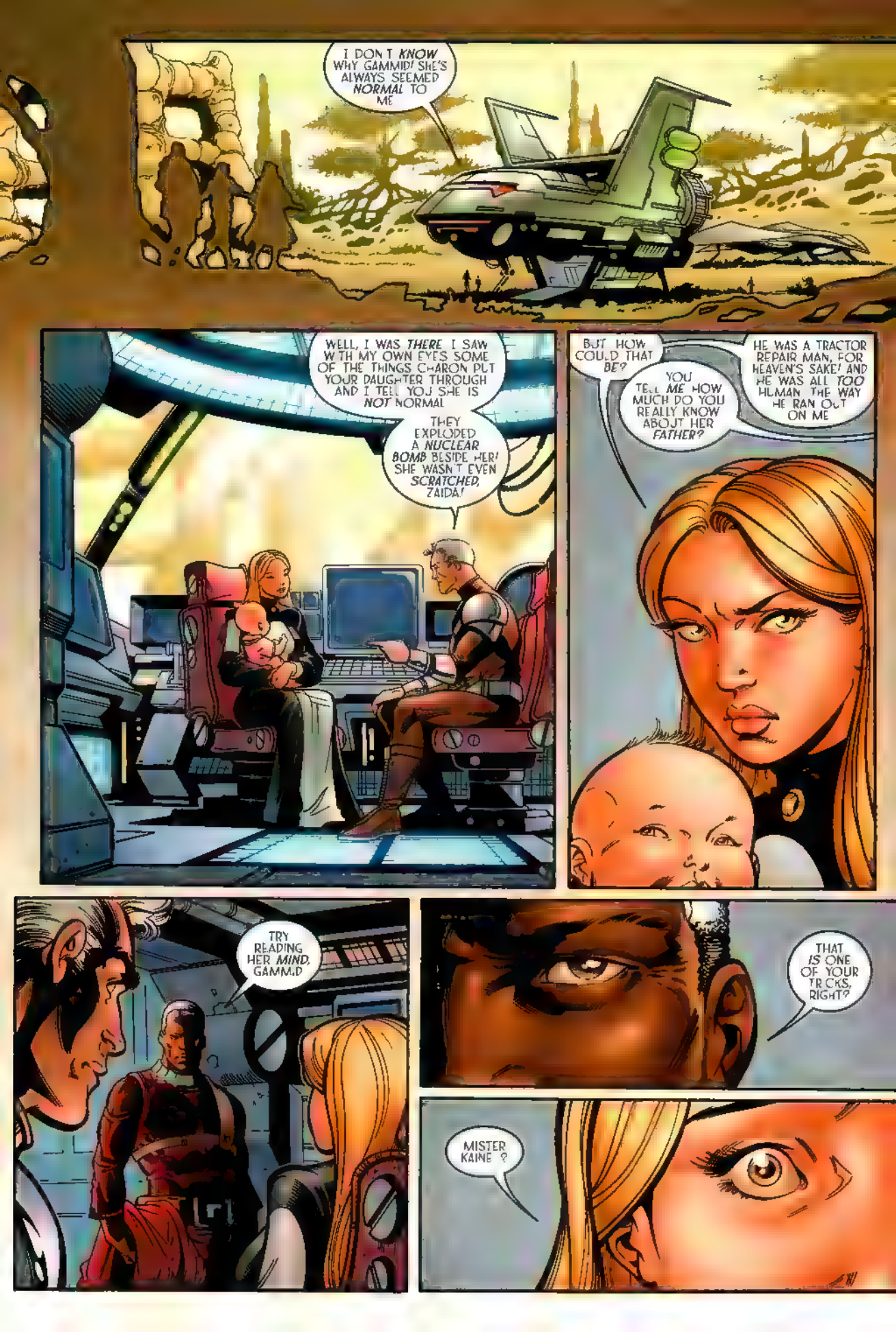
SO HOW DO YOU WANNA *PAY* FOR THIS? NEGATION *INTERCREDS*? OLDENORE STRIPS, OR MAYBE *EPHEMERALDS*?
I PREFER *X-FLIES*, IF YOU GOT 'EM
INTERCREDS. *FIVE THOUSAND*
FOR *EVERYTHING* YOU'RE ASKIN' FOR?! I DON'T THINK SO!
IT'S A FAIR PRICE
MAYBE. IN OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT SINCE NONE'A YOU HAS SHOWN HIS FACE, I'LL BET YOU'RE NOT IN THE EMPIRE'S GOOD GRACES
AND IN *NO* POSITION TO TELL ME WHAT'S FAIR AND WHAT'S NOT
EASE UP, FRIEND! WE DON'T HAVE TO GET OFF ON SUCH A BAD FOOT. LEMME TELL YOU A LITTLE *STORY* THAT MIGHT LIGHTEN THE *MOOD*.
A HOLY MAN, AN ATHEIST AND A SHOPKEEPER WALK INTO A BAR...
'SCUSE ME. WHAT'S THIS YOU'VE GOT IN THE *CAGE*?

Oh, YOU CAN JUST *FORGET* ABOUT THAT! *WAY* OUT OF YOUR PRICE RANGE!
THAT, SIR, IS A GENUINE *KALIMAN RETRIEVER* JUST A PUP, OF COURSE THEY GROW UP PRETTY *BIG*
TWO ORBITS AGO, I'D BE LUCKY TO GET FIVE HUNDRED INTERCREDS FOR IT NOW IT'S LITERALLY *PRICELESS*
IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD, MOST OF THE LITTLE GUY'S SPECIES WAS WIPED OUT WHEN THE *KARAKI* INVADED THEIR HOMEWORLD
THE *ONLY* ONES LEFT ALIVE IN THE WHOLE *UNIVERSE* ARE THE ONES WHO WEREN'T *ON* KALIMA AT THE TIME!
YEAH

I HEARD
TELL YOU WHAT WE'LL TRADE YOU A NEGATON THUNDERCEPTOR FOR THE DOG AND THE SUPPLIES.
KAINE, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! WE JUST GOT THAT SHIP!
AND WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER PET! PUT A COLLAR ON MONCHITO, IF YOU MUST--!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
YOU WIPE OUT A WHOLE SPECIES, AND THEN MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND
PLEASE--! BE QUIET!

HOW DO I KNOW YOU REALLY HAVE THAT SHIP TO TRADE?
WE PARKED AWAY FROM YOUR CITY, BUT NOT TOO FAR
GIVE ME SOME TIME TO CONVINCE MY FRIENDS I'LL COME BACK TOMORROW AND WE'LL TALK SPECIFICS
OKAY BUT THIS HAD BETTER NOT BE A TRICK--!
KAINE, I AM TRYING VERY HARD TO BE A FRIEND TO YOU, BUT YOU MAKE LESS AND LESS SENSE WITH EACH PASSING DAY
NOW, WHERE AM I GONNA FENCE A STOLEN THUNDERCEPTOR ?
TELL ME WHAT THOSE PEOPLE WANTED AND WHERE THEY ARE HIDING
Ah--!

H HOW'D YOU GET *IN* HERE ?
THE EMPEROR *SENT* ME
I HAVE COME EITHER TO *REWARD* YOU FOR YOUR HELP OR TO *KILL* YOU
WHICH WILL IT BE?
THEY WERE LOOKING FOR *PROVISIONS*-- FOODSTUFFS, MEDICINES, POWER CELLS- ENOUGH FOR TEN OR TWENTY PEOPLE
ONE OF THEM FIXATED ON MY *DOG* FOR SOME REASON
YOUR *DOG* ?
THIS IS *TIBIAN*
>KZKK< GO AHEAD
I THINK I FOUND OUR *BAIT*


I DON'T KNOW WHY GAMMID! SHE'S ALWAYS SEEMED NORMAL TO ME
WELL, I WAS THERE I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES SOME OF THE THINGS CHARON PUT YOUR DAUGHTER THROUGH AND I TELL YOU SHE IS NOT NORMAL
THEY EXPLODED A NUCLEAR BOMB BESIDE HER! SHE WASN'T EVEN SCRATCHED, ZAIDA!
BUT HOW COULD THAT BE?
YOU TELL ME HOW MUCH DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT HER FATHER?
HE WAS A TRACTOR REPAIR MAN, FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE! AND HE WAS ALL TOO HUMAN THE WAY HE RAN OUT ON ME
TRY READING HER MIND, GAMM.D
THAT IS ONE OF YOUR TRICKS, RIGHT?
MISTER KAINE ?

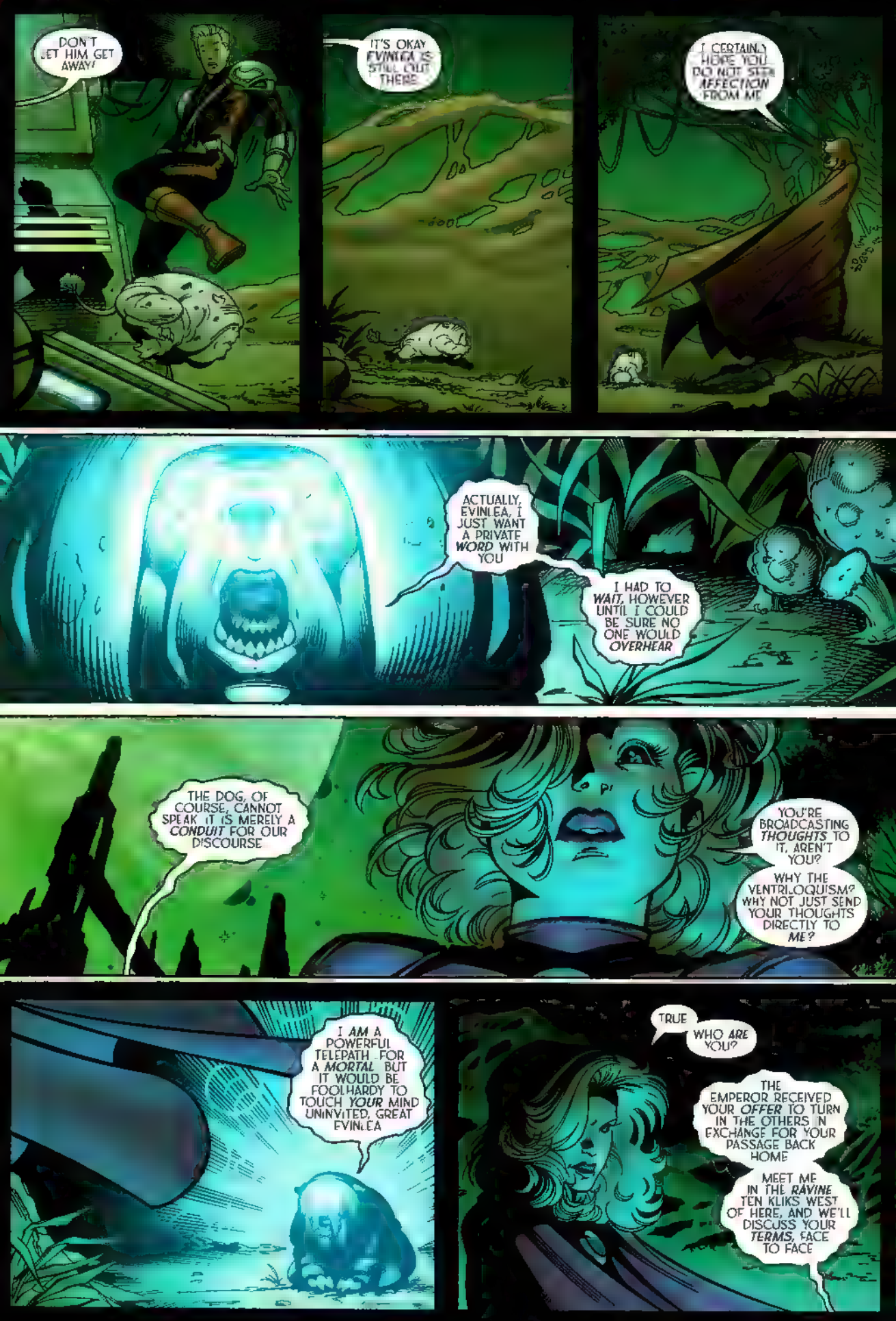
ZAIDA, YOU'RE THE CLOSEST THING TO A FRIEND I HAVE, BUT LET'S FACE IT--
--EITHER YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING OR YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU ARE
IT'S TIME WE FINALLY TAKE A LOOK BEHIND THE SMOKE SCREEN
YOU HAVE ORANGE EYES JUST LIKE ME. BUT I WASN'T BORN WITH THEM
MY EYES GOT THIS WAY WHEN I RECEIVED THIS ORANGE SIGIL ON MY CHEST
YOU'RE ALREADY IN MY MIND, AREN'T YOU?
A MAN NAMED DANIK GAVE ME MY SIGIL. ACTUALLY, HE'S SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST A MAN
YOUR MIND, ZAIDA, FEELS A LOT LIKE HIS
HEY! COME QUICK!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT KANE, YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!

IT JUST WANDERED OUT OF THE TREE LINE AND STARTED LICKING CORRIN!
NOT THAT THE THOUGHT HASN'T CROSSED MY MIND
YOU THINK IT'S THE SAME ONE WE SAW IN THE MARKET? OR DO THEY GROW WILD ON THIS PLANET?
NO, THIS IS THE SAME ONE, ALRIGHT
PERHAPS IT FOLLOWED US WE SHOULD RETURN IT, YES?
YEAH I'LL GET AROUND TO IT IN A MINUTE

FLUXOR SAYS KAINE OFFERED TO TRADE OUR NEW SHIP FOR THAT DOG. I'M BEGINNING TO THINK IT WOULD BE *WORTH IT*
HE DOES NOT SEEM IN MUCH OF A HURRY TO RETURN IT TO ITS *OWNER*
I DON'T BLAME HIM
" KAINE KNOWS BETTER THAN ANYONE HOW *TENSE* WE'VE ALL BEEN SINCE MATUA DIED. THIS HAPPY LITTLE DISTRACTION IS A *GODSEND* "
HEY, *WIGGLES!* C'MERE BOY?
WIGGLES...?
NO WAY
THAT DOG DESERVES A *TOUGH* NAME...LIKE *BRICKBITER*

"BRICKBITER" ?! YOU THINK THAT SOUNDS TOUGH? MAN, THAT'S THE LAST NAME YOU'D WANNA HAVE IN PRISON !
IN THAT CASE, LET US CALL HIM EXOR IN HONOR OF MY FAITHFUL, TRAGICALLY FALLEN FIRST OFFICER
WE'LL DO NO SUCH A THING!
WHERE I COME FROM "EXOR" IS THE BRAND NAME OF AN ANTIFUNGAL SUPPOSTORY! MAY AS WELL CALL HIM BUTT-ROT!
"HAPPY HOUND"!
"MISTER SQUIGGUMS"!
"MONCHITO"!

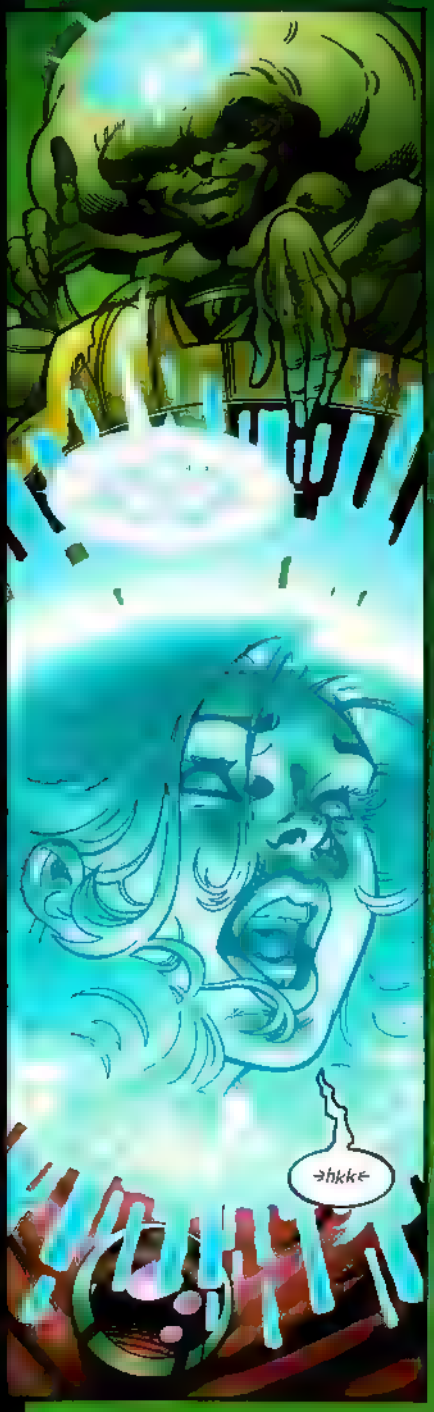
BE SILENT, YOU CHATTERING APES
I SHALL DETERMINE THE ANIMAL'S NAME, IN THE ANCIENT WAY OF MY PEOPLE
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
HIS NAME IS T'CHAUHM-PUHR
IT MEANS CANINE KING
"CHOMPER" THAT'S NOT BAD
WORKS FOR ME
C'MERE CHOMPER!
ALL RIGHT, LIZARD LADY WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?
"TASTY SNACK"


DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!
IT'S OKAY EVINLEA IS STILL OUT THERE
I CERTAINLY HOPE YOU DO NOT SHOW AFFECTION FROM ME
ACTUALLY, EVINLEA, I JUST WANT A PRIVATE WORD WITH YOU
I HAD TO WAIT, HOWEVER UNTIL I COULD BE SURE NO ONE WOULD OVERHEAR
THE DOG, OF COURSE, CANNOT SPEAK IT IS MERELY A CONDUIT FOR OUR DISCOURSE
YOU'RE BROADCASTING THOUGHTS TO IT, AREN'T YOU?
WHY THE VENTRILOQUISM? WHY NOT JUST SEND YOUR THOUGHTS DIRECTLY TO ME?
I AM A POWERFUL TELEPATH ..FOR A MORTAL BUT IT WOULD BE FOOLHARDY TO TOUCH YOUR MIND UNINVITED, GREAT EVINLEA
TRUE
WHO ARE YOU?
THE EMPEROR RECEIVED YOUR OFFER TO TURN IN THE OTHERS IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR PASSAGE BACK HOME
MEET ME IN THE RAVINE TEN KLIKS WEST OF HERE, AND WE'LL DISCUSS YOUR TERMS, FACE TO FACE

SHOW YOURSELF! I HAVE LITTLE PATIENCE FOR THE MEEK!
WE ?
SPEAK PLAINLY, LEST I UN-CREATE YOU

HE'S TALKING ABOUT THE SIGIL BEARERS. THOSE IN YOUR GROUP EMPOWERED BY THE RED AND YELLOW MARK UPON THEIR BODIES
WE WERE CHOSEN BY THE EMPEROR TO BEAR HIS OWN VERSION OF THE SIGIL. THE MARK OF CHARON
CARE TO SEE WHAT OUR SIGILS LET US DO ?
LET'S JUST SHUT UP AND GET ON WITH IT!
FOR THE GLORY OF CHARON!

I'll SHOW YOU GLORY!
SKREE
=unh=
DIE!
GYAAHH!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HOLD HER, TROCANTOR! I'LL TELEPORT HER HEAD RIGHT OFF HER SHOULDERS!
NO!

DON'T KILL HER, SHRAKT! I WANT HER WEAKENED, BUT ALIVE

HELLO, EVINDEA YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
YOU?! HOW?

YOU LEFT ME FOR *DEAD*-- WHICH WAS UNDERSTANDABLE, CONSIDERING I HAD A *HOLE* THROUGH MY CHEST
EXCEPT I *WASN'T* DEAD
MY *SIGIL* SOMEHOW KEPT ME ALIVE
IN THE END, IT WAS *CHARON* WHO PULLED ME OUT OF THE MASS GRAVE INTO WHICH YOU AND THE OTHERS HAD *DUMPED* ME
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT A *LOT* SINCE THEN AND I DON'T *BLAME* ANY OF YOU. I LOOKED DEAD. YOU MOVED ON, END OF STORY
I *FORGAVE* YOU BUT I NEVER *FORGOT* YOU
JAY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THESE PEOPLE?
YOU AND I WERE *CLOSE* ONCE, EVINLEA. WE WERE *INTIMATE*
YOU GAVE ME THE LOVE OF A *GODDESS*. AND I GAVE YOU *POWER*--AS MUCH AS MY SIGIL COULD *SEND* TO YOU
BUT SINCE HE RESURRECTED ME, CHARON *TAUGHT* ME SOMETHING AMAZING
NOT ONLY CAN I *GIVE* POWER

~I CAN TAKE IT AWAY!
=MMPH~!=

HEY CHOMPER WHERE'D EVINLEA GO?
YOU KNOW THE PRETTY BLONDE LADY ?WHERE'D SHE GO?
IF THAT PUP WERE ANY OLDER I'D WONDER F IT ATE HER
E-VIN-LEA...!
Whoa, GAMMD. ! WE DON T WANT HALF THE NEGATION TO COME~
RUNNIN
WHAT IS SHE UP TO ?
I DON T THINK SHE DID THAT ON PURPOSE
GET THE OTHERS! AND BRING EVERY GUN WE'VE GOT!

IS THAT ?
'FRAID SO
EVNLEA
HELP PLEASE
VORP
ATTENTION! OUR LEADER OFFERS YOU ONE CHANCE TO SURRENDER!
IT IS ONLY BECAUSE HE KNEW YOU AS FRIENDS THAT HE EXTENDS THIS COURTESY!
HOW CAN WE TAKE THIS OFFER SERIOUSLY IF YOUR SO-CALLED LEADER IS TOO SCARED TO MAKE IT IN PERSON?!

STICKS AND STONES. KAINE
...
JAVI ?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
I FOUND GOD.

AND HIS NAME IS CHARON

STORYTELLERS

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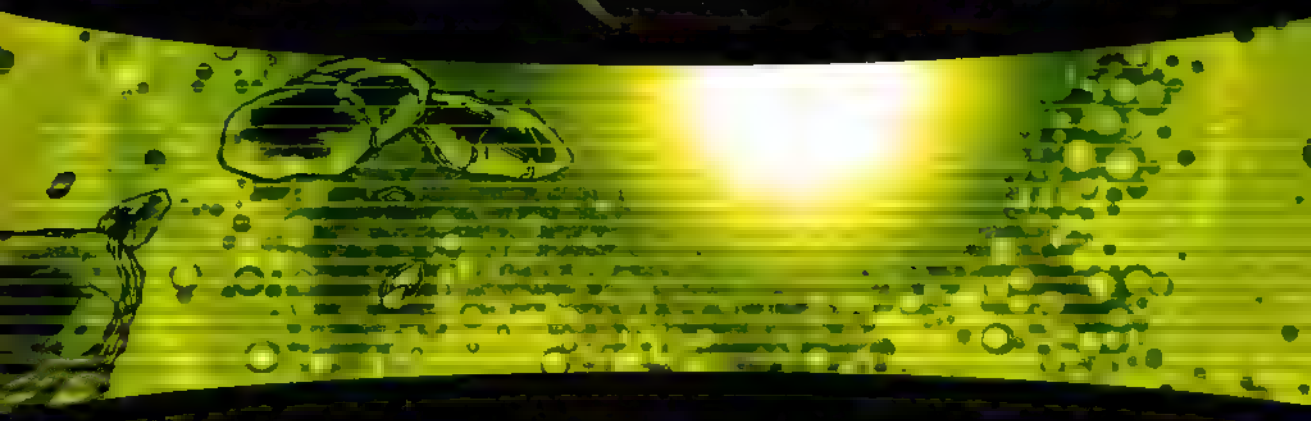
The CrossGen Universe created by Mark Alessi & Gina M. Villa.



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The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as:

the Negation

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the constable Shassa, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, such as the godlike Evinlea, came from inherently powerful races. Most, however, were simple, ordinary humans.

One such human named Obregon Kaine led a bloody uprising against the Negation Prison Warden, Komptin. The few prisoners who escaped with their lives now wander the hostile stars, seeking a way home.

Now, Charon's team of Negation Sigil-Bearers, led by former prisoner Javi Cobian, have caught up to Kaine and the fugitives. Having drained Evinlea's vast power, Javi intends to use that stolen might to destroy his former friends. But Javi has never witnessed the power of Kaine's newest ally, Gammid...

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"DON'T BOTHER APOLOGIZING THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN
"AS THE ONLY TRAINED DOCTOR IN OUR GROUP, EVEN I WOULD'VE PRONOUNCED ME DEAD
"BACK THEN, NONE OF US UNDERSTOOD THE POWER OF THE SIGIL
"WE PROBABLY STILL DON'T
unh..
"MY SIGIL KEPT ME FROM DYING, EVEN WITH A HOLE BLOWN THROUGH MY CHEST
wh where ?
-gasps-
"THE OTHERS YOU BURIED ME WITH WEREN'T SO LUCKY
AIIEEE!
"WHICH BEGS THE QUESTION: JUST HOW MUCH WOULD IT TAKE TO KILL A SIGIL-BEARER?
"AND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SIGIL WHEN ITS OWNER BITES THE DUST?"

"I'M PRETTY SURE THOSE WERE THE KINDS OF QUESTIONS THE EMPEROR HAD ON HIS MIND.
"--WHEN HE PULLED ME OUT OF THAT STINKING PIT AND GAVE ME A NEW MISSION IN LIFE."
R I P
JAVI
WU PING LAM
M'SCHELL
AGLAREB
QUOLZAG
HARVEY
Uh! Uh! Uhhh.
WELCOME BACK, PRISONER JAVI COBIAN.
MY NAME IS CHARON.
I HAVE AN OFFER TO MAKE TO YOU.

"HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO *REPLICATE* THIS RED AND YELLOW MIRACLE OF OURS
" BUT HIS RESULTS WOULDN'T QUITE *HOLD TOGETHER*
"HE NEEDED A *HEALER* TO HELP HIS TEST-SUBJECTS SURVIVE THE CONVERSION PROCESS
"AND HE WANTED AN EXPERIENCED SIGIL BEARER TO *LEAD* THEM
"I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT THE JOB, BUT WHAT *CHOICE* DID I HAVE?"

"SO I LED THEM, ALL RIGHT
"I LED THEM ON A SEARCH FOR SOME WAY TO DESTROY CHARON
"THE QUEST LITERALLY TOOK ME TO HELL, AND BROUGHT ME FACE TO FACE WITH THE FALLEN ONE
"DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT WHY WOULD I LIE TO YOU NOW? ANYHOW, MY POINT IS THAT I LEARNED A GREAT LESSON ALONG THE WAY
" I LEARNED TO FINALLY ACCEPT THAT IN THIS UNIVERSE, CHARON IS GOD "

NOT A *FALSE* GOD, LIKE THIS TWO-FACED *PARASITE* WHO USED TO KEEP ME AS HER *PET*
...unhh...
BUT THE *REAL THING* THE SUPREME BEING CHARON ALMIGHTY
IF ONLY WE'D *ALL* ACKNOWLEDGED HIS DIVINITY SOONER, MAYBE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO *DIE* NOW
JAVI, I DON'T THINK YOU REALLY *BELIEVE* ALL THAT CRAP
IF YOU D.D. YOU WOULDN'T WASTE TIME *EXPLAINING* YOURSELF TO US--
YOU'D JUST LET LOOSE YOUR *DOGS*, THEN HEAD BACK TO NEGATION BEACH FOR SOME *R'N'R*
C'MON, JAVI, YOU HUMBLED THE ICE QUEEN YOUR BEEF WAS WITH *HER*
LET'S ALL STAND DOWN BEFORE ANYONE *ELSE* GETS HURT
...HNHE

YOU WERE ALL COMPLICIT IN THE DEATH OF CHARON'S DAUGHTER, LAWBRINGER LKOR
THE ONE WITH THE TONGUE ?
YOU CONDEMNED YOURSELVES, KAINE I'M ONLY HERE TO CARRY OUT THE SENTENCE
AND WITH YOUR "BIG GUN" UNDER MY HEEL, YOU DON'T HAVE A CHANCE OF STOPPING ME
FLUXOR GET THE REMFS OUT OF THE FIRE ZONE
GOOD LUCK
SO WHERE'S MATUA?
AND WHO'S THE WHITE HAIRED GUY?
A LOT'S CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE WITH US, JAVI
K-CHAK
WE'RE STRONGER NOW. THIS ISN'T GONNA GO DOWN LIKE YOU EXPECT

MONCHITO! MONCHITO!
GET OUT OF HERE YOU LITTLE PEST!
WHAT IS THAT THING?
JUST STAY FOCUSED ON THE R SIGIL BEARERS
THE WORST THING I'VE EVER SEEN MONCHITO DO IS EAT HIS OWN BODYWEIGHT AND SOMEHOW NEVER USE THE BATHROOM
YOU KNOW THE PLAN, PEOPLE LET'S DO THIS!
FIND OUT WHAT THEY CAN DO, THEN MATCH UP SMARTLY
JUST STAY OUT OF THE WAY, KANE

FOR THE GLORY OF CHARON!

MONCHITO!

VIP

VOOP

PLOOSH

DON'T MAKE ME KILL-

-YOU

VOOP

YOU LIKE THAT LITTLE TRICK? IT WORKS EVEN BETTER ON YOUR NECK

BBA
UUAP
UP
CHOOM
CHOOM
CHOOM
UUAP
UUAP
UUAP
CHOOM
AH--!
ARRHHH!
UP
UP
CHOOM
CHOOM
UP
CHOOM

≥Unh<
VOOP
EXCUSE ME
≥Gkk<
WHOK
GAMMID, GET BACK IN THE FIGHT!
THAT IS WHAT I MEAN BY A GOOD MATCH-UP!
COME ON, PEOPLE, FIGHT SMARTER!
DRAKE! HELP CORRIN WITH THE BIG GUY!
DRAKE ?!

H-HELP
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
ZAK
HOLD STILL, DAMN YOU!
WANT TO FIGHT?
USE THE WEAPONS NATURE GAVE YOU!

HRAAAHH!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
YAAHH!
SCHHSHH
LIZ! GET AWAY FROM HIM!
SHASSA! THIS ONE'S GOT YOU WRITTEN ALL OVER HIM!
ON IT!
-WHFFE-

LAST CHANCE, JAV!
IRESS STOPPED YOUR GIRL! SHASSA CAN MATCH YOUR LIZARD GUY MOVE FOR MOVE AND CORRIN CAN TAKE DOWN YOUR BIG MAN!
NOW CALL THEM OFF BEFORE WE'RE FORCED TO KILL THEM!
MONCHITO MONCHITO!
STAY BACK, LITTLE ONE!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO TAKE ME DOWN!
I'M MUCH STRONGER THAN I LOOK!

STRONG MIND
WEAK STOMACH!
=WHUNG=
MONCHI--!
WHAT THE--?
YOU GOT SPIT ALL OVER ME, YOU LITTLE
THRNCH
WHAT ARE YOU? THEIR PET ?
WILL THEY MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE?
I SURE WON'T!
MUH MUH MUH

MONCHITO!

THRAK!
MONNN...
...NCHITOO
ZZZZZ
WELL
NOW WE KNOW WHERE ALL THAT FOOD WENT-!
THIS AIN'T OVER YET, PEOPLE!
ATTACK!

WHUMP
THANKS GAMMA I OWE YA
DRAKE! I'M LOSING MY HOLD ON HER!
READY TO TAKE A LITTLE TRIP?
SAY, RIGHT INTO THE HEART OF
THE SUN?

KR-OOM
ALTWAAL'S EYES!
DRAKE, YOU BEAUTIFUL MAN! I OWE YOU
IF YOU SAVE GAMMID, WE'LL ALL CALL IT EVEN
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KEPT UP WITH ME SO LONG, BUT-
YOU
YOU GAVE ME A STOMACH ACHE
=RAWK=
GAVE ME AN APPETITE, TOO
=CHOMP
"USE THE WEAPONS NATURE GAVE YOU."
=HKK=
=KK=

I TRIED TO WARN YOU, JAV!!
THESE AREN'T THE SAME PEOPLE YOU KNEW! THEY'RE AL. AT FULL POWER NOW, AND THIS IS NOT GOING TO END WEL. FOR YOU!
DON'T YOU THINK I KNOW YOU'RE AT FUL POWER?!
WHAT DO YOU TH NK I TOOK FROM EVINLEA?!
THE POWER TO SHAKE WORLDS, AND SHE WOULD HAVE KEPT IT TO HERSELF!
"SHE'S BEEN AROUND SINCE TIME BEGAN, AND YET SHE NEVER LEARNED TO SHARE!
"THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS IN THE KINGDOM OF CHARON ALMIGHTY!"
THROW ALL THE POWER YOU WANT AT US! WE'LL TURN IT BACK ON YOU UNTIL YOJ REALIZE YOU CAN'T WIN WITHOUT GOD ON YOJR SIDE!

THEY'RE STRONGER THAN EVER!
FORGET THE REST OF THEM! WE STOP ONE, WE STOP THEM ALL!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
"JAVI'S THE KEY! HE'S USING HIS SIGIL AND THE POWER HE STOLE FROM EVINLEA TO SUPERCHARGE THEM!"
GOD FORGIVE ME!

NOW, KAINE.
IF THAT DIDN'T KILL ME BEFORE
WHY WOULD IT WORK NOW?

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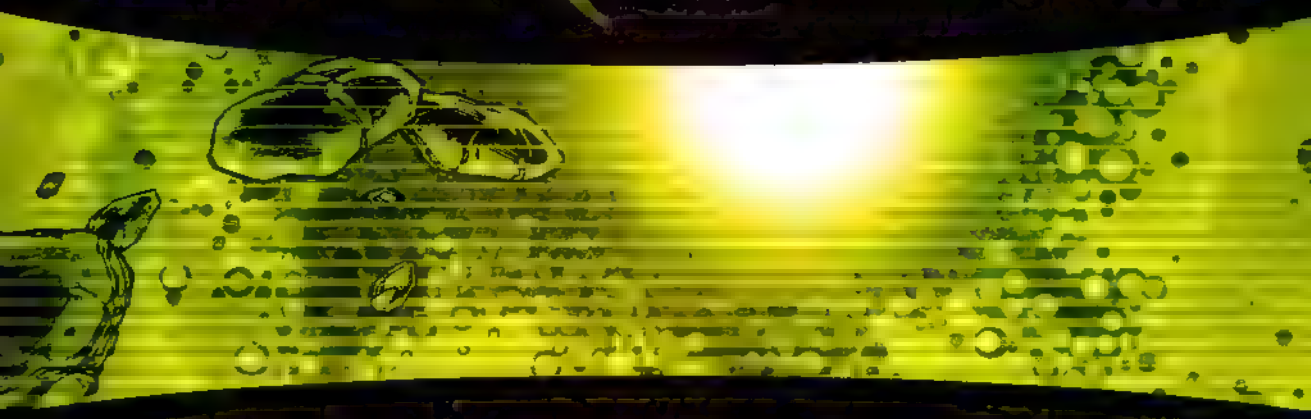

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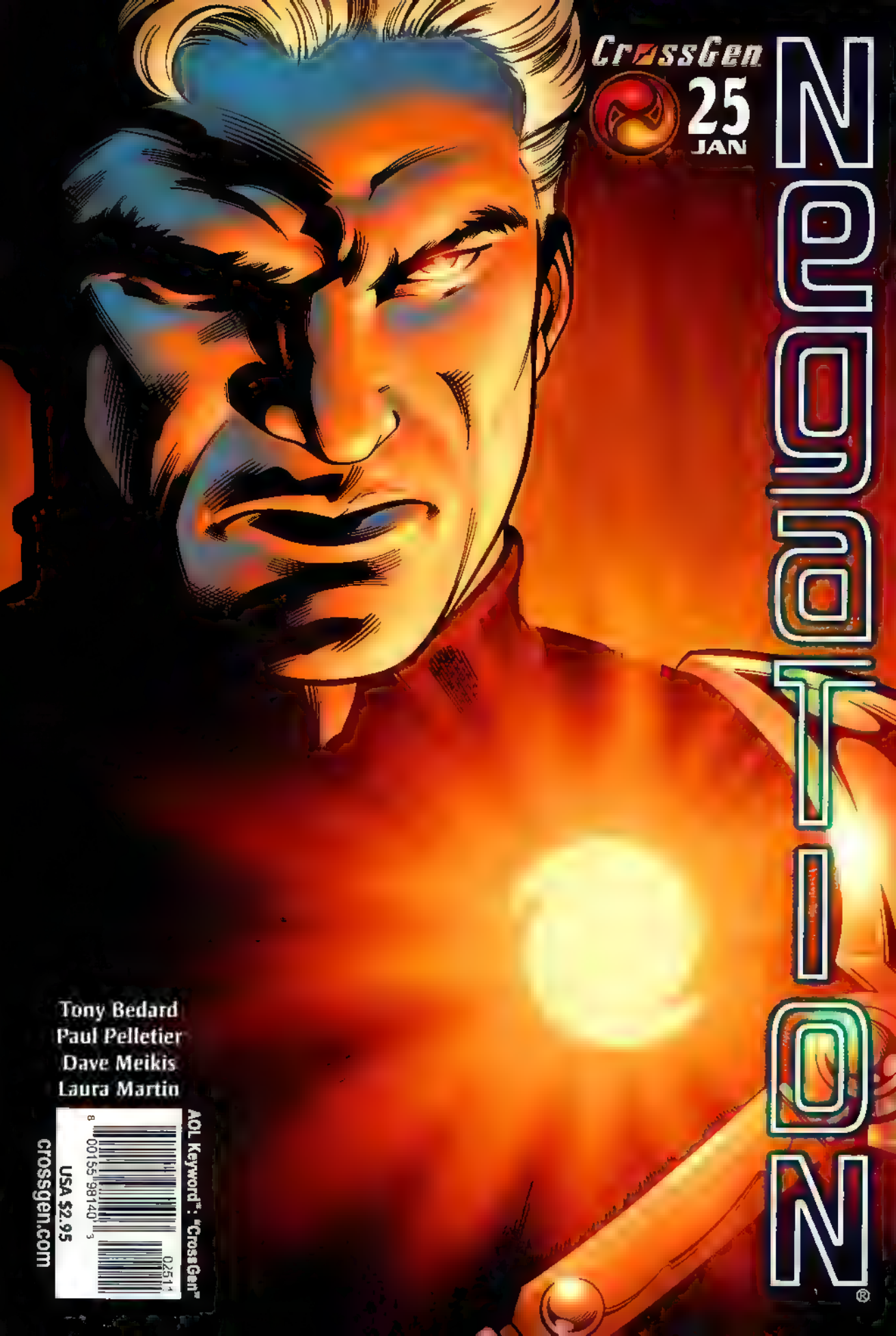
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PREVIOUSLY IN Negation

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On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the healer Javi, bore a mysterious mark of power known as the Sigil, granting them astonishing abilities. Others, like the godlike Evinlea and Gammid of Atlantis, came from inherently powerful races. Most, like Obregon Kaine, were simple, ordinary humans.

In the months since their escape, Javi was recruited by Charon to lead his own team of Negation Sigil-Bearers. Having drained Evinlea's vast power, Javi is transfering that energy to his monstrous allies, and Kaine knows his only hope is to kill his former friend...

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"TO DEFEAT YOUR ENEMY YOU HAVE TO CUT OFF HIS *SUPPLY LINE.*

"FOR THESE NEGATION SIGIL-BEARERS, THAT LINE LEADS BACK TO *JAVI.*

"HE *STOLE* EVINLEA'S POWER LIKE HE WAS SNORTING AN *ATOM BOMB*--

"--AND HIS *SIGIL* IS CHANNELING THAT ENERGY TO HIS *STRIKE TEAM!*

"SO EITHER WE FIGHT THEM TO A STANDSTILL ALL DAY, OR WE SHUT DOWN THEIR FIREPOWER AT THE *SOURCE!*"

THIS *RAY-GUN* CAN'T DO THE JOB--HE *HEALS* AS SOON AS I HIT HIM
SO TELL ME, GAMMID CAN *YOU* DO WHAT *NEEDS* TO BE DONE?
KAINE
A HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE I EVER HEARD OF THE NEGATION, I SWORE AN OATH TO *PROTECT* ALL HUMAN *LIFE*

BUT SIX WEEKS OF *TORTURE* AT THE HANDS OF *CHARON* SHOWED ME THE TRUTH

SOMETIMES THE *KINDEST* ACT

S
A MERCY KILLING!
FASH
FASH
FASH
KRAKKOOM
JAVI!
SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY, OR SHARE HIS FATE!
I PROMISE WE'LL SPARE YOU, REVERSE CHARON'S BRAINWASH

--ING
YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH ME YET
C'MERE!
=kakk=

FLASH
LET GO!
SO, YOU'VE MET THE EMPEROR? THEN YOU'VE STOOD IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD
LET THAT BE A COMFORT TO YOU IN THESE FINAL MOMENTS
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT "SURRENDER"?
-unh-
CORRIN! WORK WITH ME!
IT WON'T MAKE ANY--
Whu--?!
JAVI! DON'T CUT US OFF NOW--!

HANG TOUGH FOR A MINUTE, BREVUS!
I'LL DOUBLE WHAT I GAVE YOU, SOON AS I'M DONE DRAINING HIM!
KAINE
HEAR ME KAINE
ENERGY ATTACKS ONLY FEED JAVIS POWER
YOUR ATTACK MUST BE PHYSICAL !
DO YOU STILL CARRY THAT PROJECTILE WEAPON ?
AIM FOR HIS BRAIN
UNDERSTOOD
BLAM!

DAMMIT KAINE!
SORRY, JAVI
BLAM BLAM
YOU GOTTA GO
OW!
YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THAT!
IDIOTS! HIS SIGIL STILL HEALS HIM TOO QUICKLY!

IF YOU'RE TO KILL HIM
YOU MUST FIRST DISARM HIM!
LITERALLY
eh?
KAINE!
GOTCHA
BLAM
BLAM
aah

GYAHHH!
WHEN YOU MEET THE REAL GOD
AND IT'S NOT YOUR PRECIOUS CHARON
ah. nnhh.
BOY, WILL YOU FEEL STUPID!

NO--!
I'M SORRY I I WISH
I KNOW GAMM D

KSZ
SPKK SPK
"I KNOW"

KZ

SPK SPK

KZKZ

LORDS OF MALGEDAE

SHWOOSH

IS *THAT* WHAT HAPPENS TO THE SIGIL WHEN YOU DIE ?

ALL THAT *ENERGY* HAS TO GO *SOME-WHERE*

SHHHH

MURDERER

unh
VORP
shurk
VORP
SLSSHHH
LET'S GO!
GAMMID?!
SURK

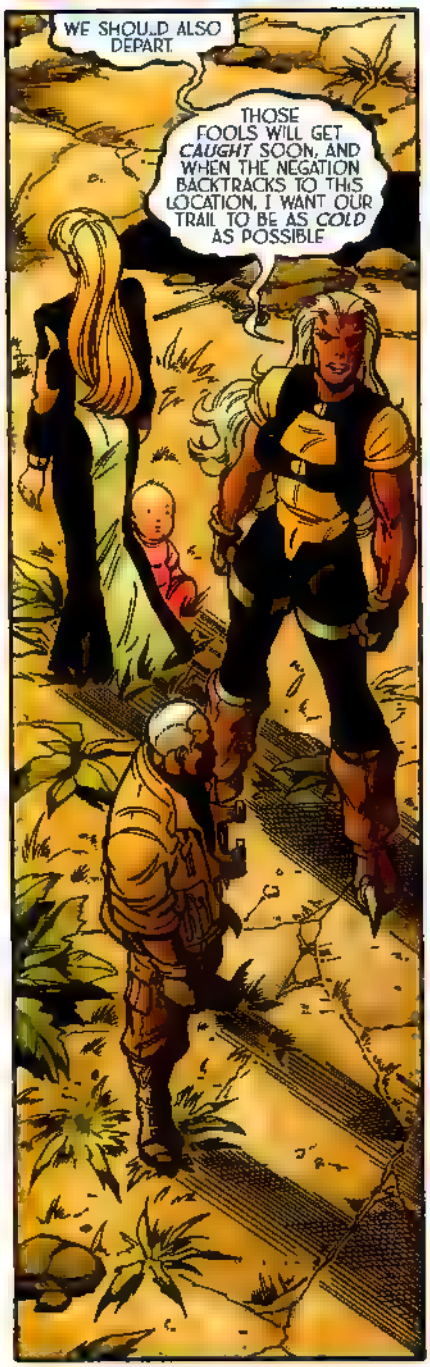
GAMMID, CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?!
WELL *THAT* WAS STUPID
WHAT'S THAT *WORD* FOR WHEN YOU JUST CAN'T *WIN* ?
BOH CA

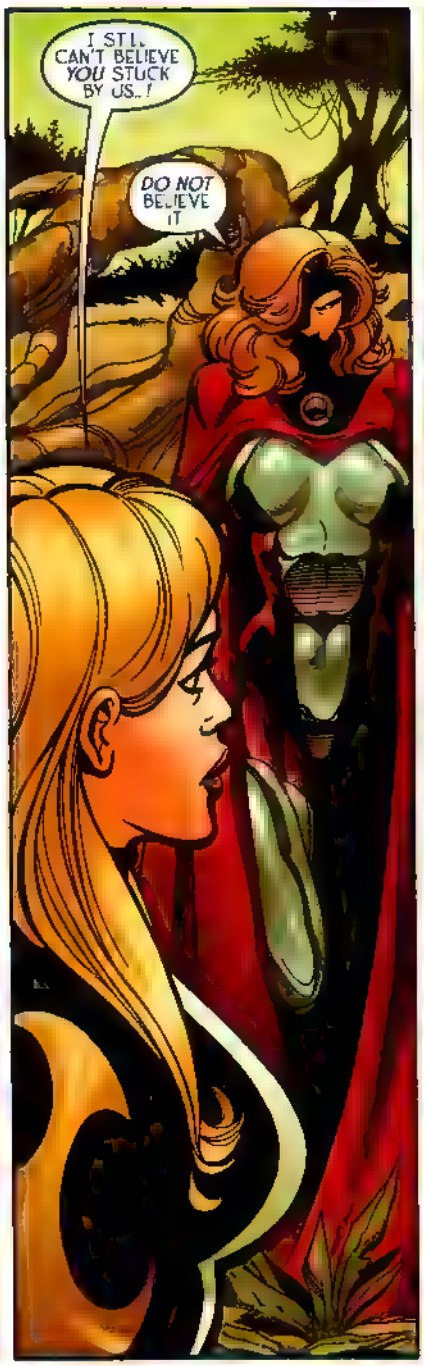
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WAS HIM --!
I MEAN WHAT DID THOSE NEGATION GUYS DO TO TURN A GOOD GUY LIKE JAV SO BAD?
YOU HAVE ONLY FACED THE NEGATION LESS THAN A SEASON
I WAS BORN HERE
THERE IS NO PLANET, AND NO SOUL, THAT CHARON CANNOT UTTERLY BEFOUL
SOMEONE'S COMING !
WELL ?
EVINLEA'LL BE BACK TO NORMAL, ONCE SHE SOAKS UP SOME MORE AMBIENT ENERGY

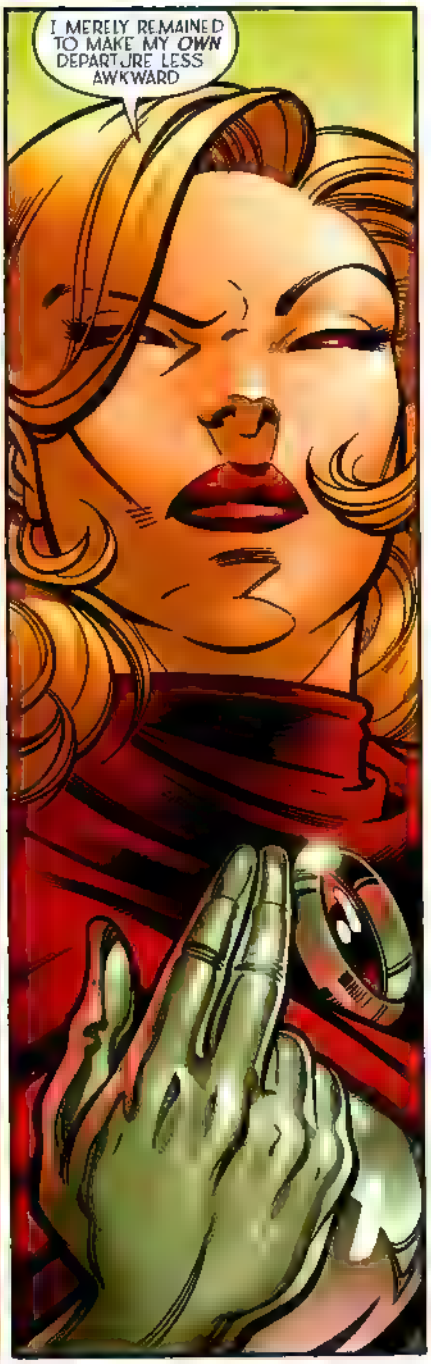
BUT GAMMID...?
HE WASN'T WITH US LONG, BUT GAMMID MADE AN IMPACT ON EACH OF US, AND WE'LL NEVER FORGET HIM
HE WAS A GOOD SOLDIER, AND ONE OF THE BRAVEST PEOPLE I'VE EVER MET
UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS WAR I LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO THAT YOU CAN'T CHOOSE WHO LIVES AND DIES IN YOUR SQUAD THAT'S NOT UP TO US
ALL WE CAN DO IS TO LEARN FROM THESE SETBACKS, AND -
THE ONLY LESSON I'VE LEARNED IS THAT IF YOU FIGHT THE NEGATION, SOONER OR LATER YOU END UP DEAD!
YOU WANNA MAKE WAR ON AN EMPIRE OF TRILLIONS?! COUNT ME OUT!

WHETHER WE WANT IT OR NOT--
I AM NOT IN YOUR ARMY, KANE!
LOOK, I THINK YOU MEAN WELL, BUT IN THE END YOU'LL JUST GET US KILLED, ONE BY ONE!
I CAN'T JUST GO ALONG WITH ONE FARFETCHED SCHEME AFTER ANOTHER AND END UP LIKE GAMMID OR JAVI OR MATUA
YOU GETTING THE PICTURE?
AND WHAT IS THE ALTERNATIVE?
WE HAVE TWO SHIPS
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIGHT THE BIG BLUE GOD, GO WITH H.M ON THE THUNDERCEPTOR
ANYONE WHO WANTS TO FIND A NICE QUIET PLANET AND GROW OLD THERE, COME WITH ME
NOW, WAIT A MINUTE!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO SPLIT UP! THEY'LL TRACK US DOWN AND PICK US APART! YOU CAN'T HIDE FOREVER !
I DON'T KNOW SPACE IS AN AWFUL BIG PLACE
WHO'S WITH ME?

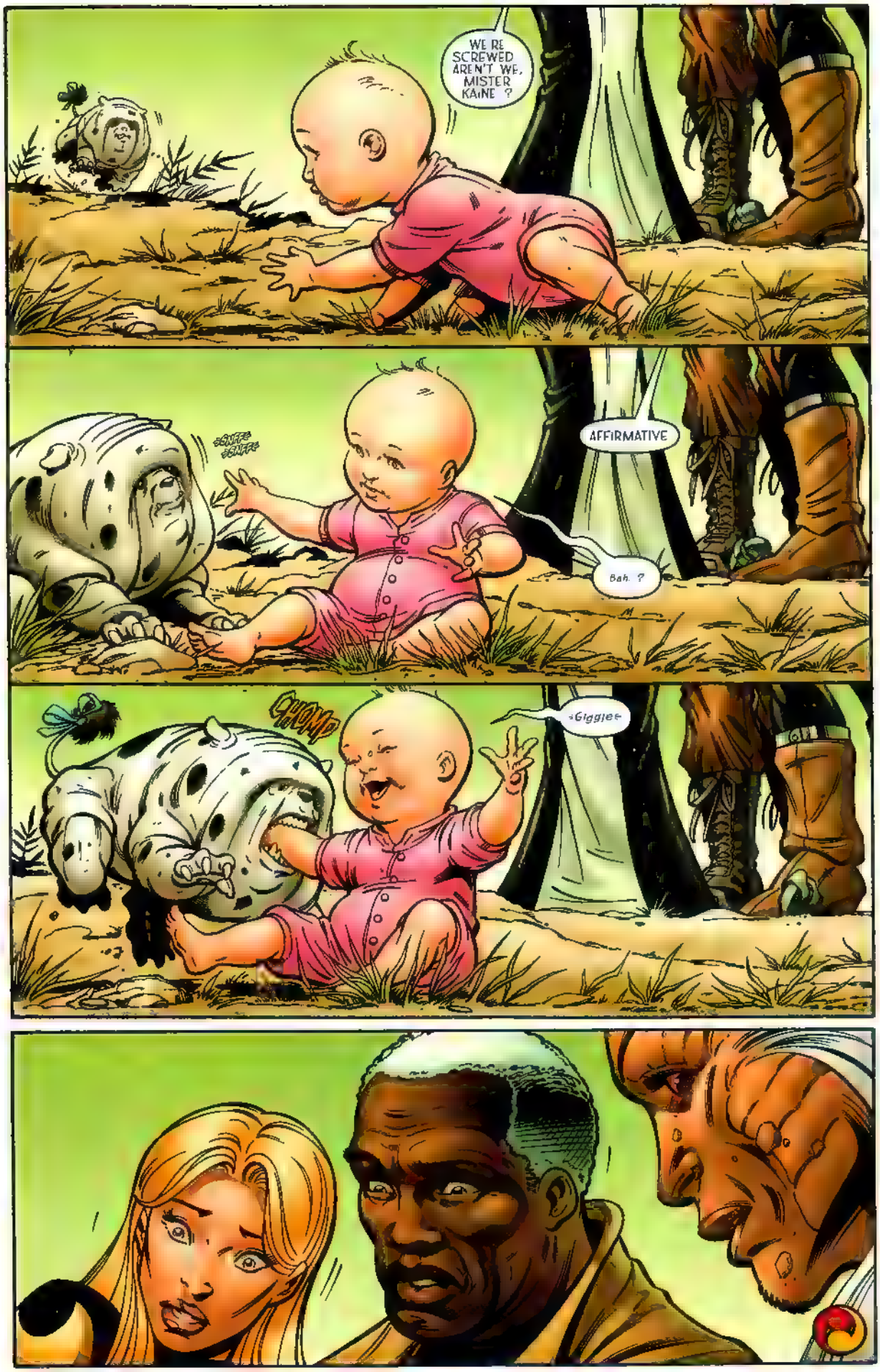
I AM SORRY KAINE BUT THERE'S NO PERCENTAGE IN FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE
I AM A *WARRIOR*, FROM A *RACE* OF WARRIORS TO HIDE AND GROW FAT DOES NOT ENTICE ME IN THE LEAST
MISTER KAINE STOOD BY ME AND MEMI FROM DAY ONE WE'RE WITH *HIM* TO THE END
THANK YOU, LADIES
MY ENTIRE CIVILIZATION PAID THE *PRICE* FOR RESISTING THE NEGATION I THINK PERHAPS THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE AT PEACE AND COMPANIONSHIP
SORRY, MISTER KAINE
I TOOK THE CONSTABLE'S OATH TO *PROTECT*, NOT TO KILL. THESE PEOPLE WILL *NEED* ME KAINE
YOU *COULD* COME WITH US, TOO, YOU KNOW. JUST GIVE IT A MONTH OR TWO ?
HIDING JUST PUTS OFF THE *INEVITABLE* I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES ON THE *OFFENSIVE*
HOW ABOUT *YOU*, EVINLEA? FIGHT OR FLIGHT?


WE SHOULD ALSO DEPART
THOSE FOOLS WILL GET *CAUGHT* SOON, AND WHEN THE NEGATION BACKTRACKS TO THIS LOCATION, I WANT OUR TRAIL TO BE AS *COLD* AS POSSIBLE


I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE *YOU* STUCK BY US..!
DO NOT BELIEVE IT


I MERELY REMAINED TO MAKE MY *OWN* DEPARTURE LESS AWKWARD

YOU DIDN'T *REALLY* THINK THAT CHALLENGE YOU ISSUED WOULD COMPEL ME TO STAND BY YOUR SIDE, DID YOU, KAINE?
THE FACT IS THAT THE OTHERS ARE *CORRECT*: TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING YOUR ADDLED LEADERSHIP IS A ONE-WAY TICKET TO THE *GRAVE*
THERE IS ONLY *ONE* HOPE FOR ESCAPING NEGATION SPACE... ONLY ONE ENTITY IN THIS COSMOS THAT CAN *GUARANTEE* MY PASSAGE
I HAVE DECIDED TO SEEK OUT CHARON *MYSELF*, AND MAKE MY OWN PEACE WITH HIM.
I WOULD BE HIS *CONSORT*, AND RETURN HOME TO ELYSIA WITH SUCH INCREASED *STATURE* THAT INGRA HERSELF MUST BOW BEFORE ME.
IT IS A *RISK*, I KNOW, BUT I PREFER IT TO STAKING MY FUTURE ON THE JUDGMENT OF MORTALS
EV: YOU'RE *KIDDING*
GOOD LUCK, OBREGON KAINE... DO NOT CROSS MY PATH AGAIN IF YOU WISH TO GO ON *LIVING*


WE'RE SCREWED AREN'T WE, MISTER KAINE ?
SNIFF SNIFF
AFFIRMATIVE
Bah. ?
CHOMP
Giggle

KISS KISS BANG BANG PREVIEW INSIDE!

Negation

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PREVIOUSLY IN Negation

The God-Emperor CHARON conquered His chaotic universe and forged an intergalactic empire known as the Negation.

Charon now casts His baleful eye across the gulf between realities and covets the bright and thriving worlds in our cosmos.

On His orders, one hundred strangers were abducted from our universe and brought to His dark realm to be studied and tested on a harsh prison-world. Some captives, such as the godlike Evinlea and the fierce Lizard Lady, came from inherently powerful races. Others, like veteran soldier Obregon Kaine, were simple, ordinary humans.

In the months since their escape, the fugitives have been rocked by several deaths, until they finally parted ways. Most have gone in search of a planet to call home. Kaine continues searching for a way to fight the Negation. And Evinlea seeks Charon for her own reasons...

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CASTELLAN! I'M READING AN INCOMING ENERGY SIGNATURE--HIGHLY CONCENTRATED AND OFF THE CHARTS!
COME ON, CORPORAL, I NEED BETTER INTEL THAN THAT! IS IT A MISSILE? A TIGHT FORMATION OF ATTACK SHIPS?
UNCERTAIN, BUT IF I HAD TO CHOOSE, I'D SAY MISSILE. TOO LOCALIZED TO BE A GROUP OF STRIKERS.
SCRAMBLE THE CITY DEFENSES FOR ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO US.
IF THE EMPEROR'S DECIDED FOR SOME REASON TO PUNISH US, NOTHING WILL SAVE US.
JUST JUST GET ME A VISUAL! SHOW ME WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST!

THIS LOOKS TO BE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY
WAIT! I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE!
ATTENTION INTRUDER! YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF NEGATION IMMIGRATION PROTOCOLS!

IDENTIFY YOURSELF! WHERE IS YOUR VESSEL? HOW DID YOU DESCEND WITHOUT IT?
KCHAK UREEEEEEEE
KCHAK UREEEEEEEE
CAPTAIN! I HAVE A POSITIVE I.D ON HER! YOU'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
OUR RECORDS INDICATE YOU ARE AN ESCAPED PRISONER! SURRENDER NOW OR BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY BY FORCE!
BEFORE YOU TRY ANYTHING MONUMENTALLY STUPID, YOU *MIGHT* WANT TO HEAR ME OUT

PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD! I AM EVINLEA, OF THE FIRST RACE! OF THE GODS OF MIGHTY ELYSIA!
YOU HAVE THE SOLEMN HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST GREAT SETTLEMENT I HAVE ENCOUNTERED IN MY SOLITARY TREK ACROSS YOUR COSMOS!
aahh!
I SALUTE THE SACRIFICE YOU WILL ENDURE TO WIN ME AN AUDIENCE WITH YOUR EMPEROR!
SACRIFICE

VRRRRRRRRRR
READINGS ARE SPIKING TO THERMONUCLEAR LEVELS!
TELL THE MAN TO OPEN FIRE!

GREAT CHARON *THANK YOU* FOR ANSWERING MY INVITATION
PRISONER EVINLEA.
YOU KILLED MY LAWBRINGER!
NO. THAT WAS MY COMPANION *MATUA*
HOW A *MORTAL* ACCOMPLISHED SUCH A FEAT, I AM STILL UNSURE, BUT HE GAVE HIS OWN *LIFE* TO DEFEAT YOUR MONSTER SO THAT DEBT IS *SETTLED*
I AM THE ONE WHO OFFERED YOU MY FELLOW *ESCAPEES* IN EXCHANGE FOR PASSAGE *HOME*
"mmp!"
YES, I *RECEIVED* YOUR OFFER TO SERVE ME. I *LAUGHED* AT THE PART ABOUT SHARING *"A LOVE TO SHATTER WORLDS."*
DID IT NEVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT I AM *BEYOND* THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH?

I MADE YOU A VERY GRACIOUS OFFER AND IN RETURN, YOU SENT YOUR LITTLE CADRE OF KILLERS TO STEAL MY POWER AND HUMILIATE ME!
SOMEHOW I EXPECTED MORE FROM THE EMPEROR OF THE UNIVERSE. GOOD MANNERS, AT THE VERY LEAST
VERY WELL. PERHAPS THAT SCORE WAS SETTLED.
YOU'VE WASTED A LOT OF LIVES HERE. WHY?
THEY'RE NOT WASTED IF THEY HELP ME MAKE MY POINT TO YOU
YOUR POINT BEING...?
I COME FROM AN ENTIRE WORLD FILLED WITH PEOPLE LIKE ME
IF YOUR CONQUEST OF MY COSMOS IS TO AVOID A SERIOUS OBSTACLE, YOU COULD USE SOME GUIDANCE FROM AN EXPERT ON HOW TO TAKE ON THE FIRST
TELL ME MORE...

I ALWAYS DID THINK THE "LIZARD LOOK" SUITED YOU BEST
SO, DID YOU PICK UP ANYTHING *ELSE* FROM BITING THAT SCALY MOTHERLOVER?
YES. I ABSORBED SOME OF TIBIAN'S SIGIL-ENHANCED *AGILITY*
SOME OF HIS *MEMORIES*, TOO.
IT'S THE THOUGHTS AND THE MEMORIES THAT GIVE ME *DIFFICULTY*
WHAT A *TACTICAL ADVANTAGE* YOUR PEOPLE ARE BORN WITH !
IMAGINE NEVER HAVING TO *INTERROGATE* PRISONERS, WHEN JUST ONE *BITE* COULD TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW
WOULD YOU REALLY WANT TO *COMMUNE* WITH EVERY VICTIM, KAINE? TO FULLY KNOW THE *LIVES* OF EVERYONE YOU EVER GUNNED DOWN IN COMBAT?
NO

BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT *YOU*, ZAIDA.
I'VE DEFINITELY THOUGHT FOR A *WHILE* NOW THAT IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND MEM- BETTER
KAINE, WHAT ARE YOU *SUGGESTING*? I PROMISED MYSELF LONG AGO NOT TO *DEVOUR* THAT CHILD
er, THANKS
YOU COULDN'T IF YOU *TRIED*, LIZARD LADY THE KID'S *INDESTRUCTIBLE*, REMEMBER?
I'M PRETTY SURE ZAIDA IS, *TOO*, THOUGH SHE CAN'T RECALL ANY REASON WHY THEY'RE SO SPEC AL
GAMM D AND I WERE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT TH S MYSTERY BEFORE HE DIED HE'S NOT AROUND ANYMORE TO READ ZAIDA'S MIND, BUT *YOU*
F YOU TASTED JUST A *DROP* OF THEIR BLOOD, MAYBE THAT'S ALL THE DNA YOU'D NEED TO UNCOVER THE *TRUTH*.

"ELYSIA IS MY HOMEWORLD T IS THE CENTER OF MY UNIVERSE THE CRADLE OF ALL LIFE AND BIRTHPLACE OF THE FIRST
"BACK IN THE TIME BEFORE THE EIDOLON RIFT, WHEN ALTWAAL RULED THE FIRST AND WE STOOD UNITED, NOT EVEN THE NEGATION COULD HAVE OPPOSED US
"FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, ALTWAAL ABANDONED HIS STEWARDSHIP OF ELYSIA LONG AGO AND THOSE WHO REMAINED SPLIT INTO TWO CAMPS TWO GREAT HOUSES FOREVER LOCKED IN CONFLICT"
THAT DIVIDED NATURE WILL PROVE THEIR UNDOING I CAN HELP YOU FIND ELYSIA -FOR SHE WOULD OTHERWISE ELUDE YOUR SCANNERS
AND I CAN HELP YOU TAKE DOWN THE FIRST THOUGH DEFEATING THE LIKES OF TRENIN, PYREM, AND INGRA WILL BE A CHALLENGE
AND WHAT WILL YOU EXPECT IN RETURN?

AN EXALTED PLACE AT YOUR *SIDE*, O EMPEROR OF THE NEGATION
I WOULD BE YOUR *CONSORT*, TO HELP YOU GOVERN YOUR NEW DOMINION, AND TO *COMFORT* YOU AT DAY'S END
I *TOLD* YOU THAT I AM NO LONGER INTERESTED IN SOMETHING AS VULGAR AS *SEX*.
I DO NOT SPEAK OF MERE *COUPLING*, MY LORD I SPEAK OF *POWER!*
HAVE YOU NEVER HEARD THAT POLITICS MAKES *STRANGE* BEDFELLOWS?
THAT IS A *METAPHOR*.
NOT ALWAYS. IT IS THE CUSTOM IN MANY CULTURES, AND EVEN AMONG MY OWN PEOPLE THAT GRAND ALLIANCES ARE CEMENTED BY *MARRIAGE*
EVEN IF IT *IS* JUST FOR *SHOW*, THE PEOPLES OF MY UNIVERSE WILL MORE READILY ACCEPT THEIR NEW KING IF THEY KNOW HE HAS A *QUEEN*, AND PERHAPS ONE DAY AN *HEIR*

FWASH
PERHAPS WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS...
FWASH
...SOMEWHERE LESS PUBLIC.
I ADMIT, YOUR OFFER INTRIGUES ME, MORE FOR THE *POLITICAL* BENEFIT THAN FOR ANY PROMISE OF *INTIMACY* WITH YOU.
I AM ALSO AWARE OF YOUR GIFT FOR *DUPLICITY*, EVINLEA.
ANY SO-CALLED *ROMANCE* BETWEEN US WOULD BE A CYNICAL *FARCE*... AN EMPTY *LIE*...
...A SNAKE-PIT OF *HYPOCRISY* AS YOU TRY TO PULL MY EMOTIONAL STRINGS, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT I *HAVE* NO HEART TO STEAL...
Oh. YES. YES.
GODS, YOU'RE GETTING ME *HOT!*

FORGET IT! I AM NOT GOING TO LET YOU DRINK EVEN A DROP OF BLOOD FROM ME, OR MY DAUGHTER!
EASY NOW, ZAIDA. I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT ANY ONE SHOULD GET HURT. I JUST WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT YOUR DEAL IS. DON'T YOU?
GAMMID SAID MEMI TOOK A NUKE AND LAUGHED IT OFF, REMEMBER? DON'T YOU WANNA KNOW HOW THAT'S EVEN POSSIBLE?
ARE YOU SO WRAPPED UP IN STRATEGIZING THAT YOU FORGOT YOU'RE ASKING LIZ TO DRINK OUR BLOOD?
WHAT KIND OF GHOUL HAVE YOU BECOME, MISTER KAINE?
IT IS ILL ADVISED WHO KNOWS WHEN WE'LL STOCK UP NEXT? I DON'T WANT TO DEVELOP A TASTE FOR ANY OF YOU SHOULD WE BE FORCED TO GO HUNGRY
OKAY, OKAY, NO BLOOD
HOW ABOUT A HAIR? IS HAIR TOO MUCH FOR YOU?
FINE! HERE. TAKE IT!
BUT IF NOTHING HAPPENS, PROMISE TO LEAVE ME ALONE, OKAY?
DEAL

SHUUUP
MUNCH
MUNCH
ULP
HAKKK KAK KAKKK--!
LIZARD LADY! WHAT'S WRONG?!
wheeeze h KAKK!
Oh MY GOD!
IT'S IT'S OKAY THE HAIR JUST STARTED GOING DOWN THE WRONG PIPE hakk
WELL YOU NEARLY SCARED US TO DEATH!

HYAAIIII!
WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAPPENED?
I I KNOW
BLESSED KHYALHTUA I KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BABY! I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE!

I CAN LOOK HOWEVER YOU WANT ME TO LOOK. BE ANY WOMAN YOU DESIRE
BUT I DON'T DESIRE ANYONE.
PERHAPS YOU PREFER BRUNETTES TO BLONDES ?
OR PERHAPS YOU PREFER AN EXOTIC LOOK FROM A FORBIDDEN HAREM ?
OR WOULD YOU RATHER A MORE MASCULINE LOOK? IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME
OR PERHAPS YOU SECRETLY LONG FOR THE ULTIMATE ACT OF NARCISSISM--
NO! DEFINITELY NOT!
HEY, IT'S SEX WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE
PLEASE STOP THIS TALK OF SEX! I AM NOT INTERESTED, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE BEEN WITH A WOMAN, THAT I CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT IT WAS LIKE!
SO THAT'S THE PROBLEM!

WE..I, DON'T WORRY IT WILL COME BACK TO YOU AS THEY SAY IN CERTAIN CULTURES
sigh
"IT'S JUST LIKE RIDING A BICYCLE"
oomphe

CHARON ! I HAD NO IDEA ! Heh heh heh
YOU MUST ADMIT, EVEN IF YOU ONLY SAW THIS AS SOME KIND OF EXPERIMENT, YOU ENJOYED IT DIDN'T YOU?
asiyhe
VERY WELL, EVINLEA. I SHALL ANNOUNCE YOU AS MY CONSORT, AND YOU WILL HAVE A FAVORED PLACE IN THE NEW ORDER.
BUT IF YOU PLOT AGAINST ME, OR IF I SIMPLY TIRE OF THIS FOOLISHNESS, I'LL DESTROY YOU WITHOUT A TRACE OF REMORSE.
Oh, MY LOVE YOU SAY THE SEXIEST THINGS

Lady Death: THE WILD HUNT PREVIEW INSIDE!

Negation

CrossGen
#27 MAR
2004

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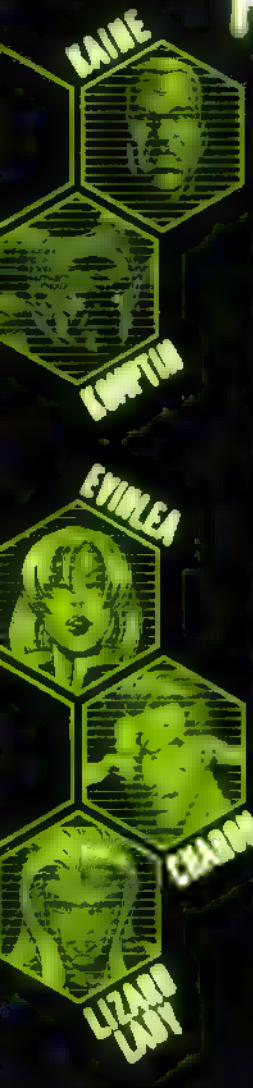

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In the months following an escape led by Kaine, their sadistic jailer, Komptin, fruitlessly pursued them. He ultimately sacrificed his career and his family in his obssessive quest to kill Obregon Kaine. Now Komptin serves the Empire in its darkest undertakings...

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=KZZK=
FOURTH SUPPRESSION BATTALION TO BATTLE GROUP FORGE SECTOR TEN IS PACIFIED, ALL COLLATERAL UNITS WILL BE IN POSITION IN TWENTY MINUTES.
REQUEST E T A ON THE LIQUIDATION SPECIALIST
=KZZK=
=KZZK=
ACKNOWLEDGED, FOUR S-B GENERAL KRYZORR HAS SIGNED THE ORDER
HIS SPECIALIST JUST CLEARED THE LAUNCH BAY. PROCEED WITH PLACEMENT OF COLLATERAL UNITS, AND MAINTAIN AN L-Z ON SITE
=KZZK=

AMJI! WHERE ARE THEY TAKING US?!
I DON'T KNOW! JUST KEEP QUIET--!
AMJI, I LOVE YOU!
GAMIL, PLEASE--!
AIEEE--*
FZAMM
BUT WHAT IF THEY SEPARATE US?! WHAT IF I NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN?!
KEEP IT MOVING, PEOPLE!
YOU STOP, YOU DIE!
YOU STEP OUT OF LINE, YOU DIE!
NICE SHOT SOLDIER

HEY, CAPTAIN TELL ME WHAT THESE PEOPLE DID AGAIN ?
DOES IT MATTER?
MOSTLY I'M WONDERING IF WE HAVE TO FINISH THE JOB
I MEAN, IF WE'RE LATE SHIPPING OUT FOR THE BIG INVASION BECAUSE WE'RE STUCK HERE ON A KILL-'EM AND FILL-'EM JOB !
WORD FROM THE FORGE IS THAT GENERAL KRYZORR ASSIGNED A SPECIALIST TO THIS DETAIL.
SUPPOSEDLY, KRYZORR HAD THIS GUY RUNNING CLEANUP ON VARAN STIKE'S WORLD AND THE BIFURG NEBULA JUST IN THE PAST FIVE WEEKS!

WELL, THEN HE OUGHTTA BE USED TO DIRTY WORK BY NOW
FROM THE SOUND OF IT, HE STARTED OUT DIRTY
" I HAVE A FRIEND IN LOGISTICS WHO PULLED THIS GUY'S FILE "
FIFTEEN MINUTES UNTIL DUST OFF, SPECIALIST KOMPTIN!
" TURNS OUT KRYZORR GAVE HIM THE JOB BECAUSE HE FRAGGED HIS OWN MOTHER AND BROTHER "

MISSION SPEC ALIST KOMPTIN! DO YOU REQUIRE ANYTHING FURTHER FROM US?
SWUFFFF

WHAT'S HE WAITING FOR ?

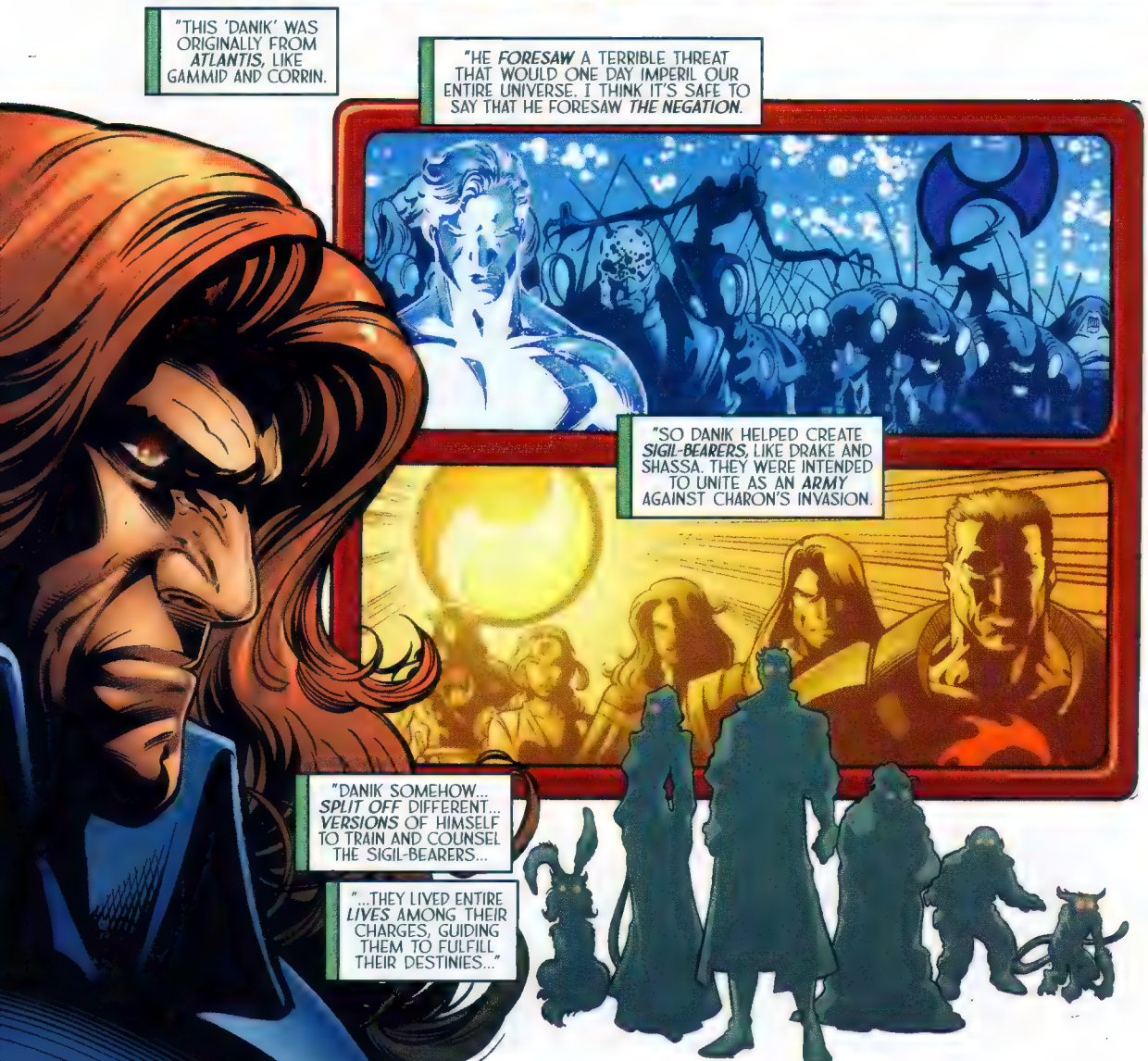
HIYA, SHORTY HOW'S YOUR DOG?
KAINNNNNE

BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDABU

BURY THEM
GOOD WORK, KOMPTIN. GOTTA GET AIRBORNE NOW--TIGHT SCHEDULE
THE GENERA.'S BOOKED YOUR SERVICES AT THREE OTHER DISPOSAL SITES ON THIS MUDBALL. WE'LL BREAK FOR LUNCH AFTER THE NEXT ONE
I WONDER WHAT TURNED HIM INTO THAT?
"KAINE"

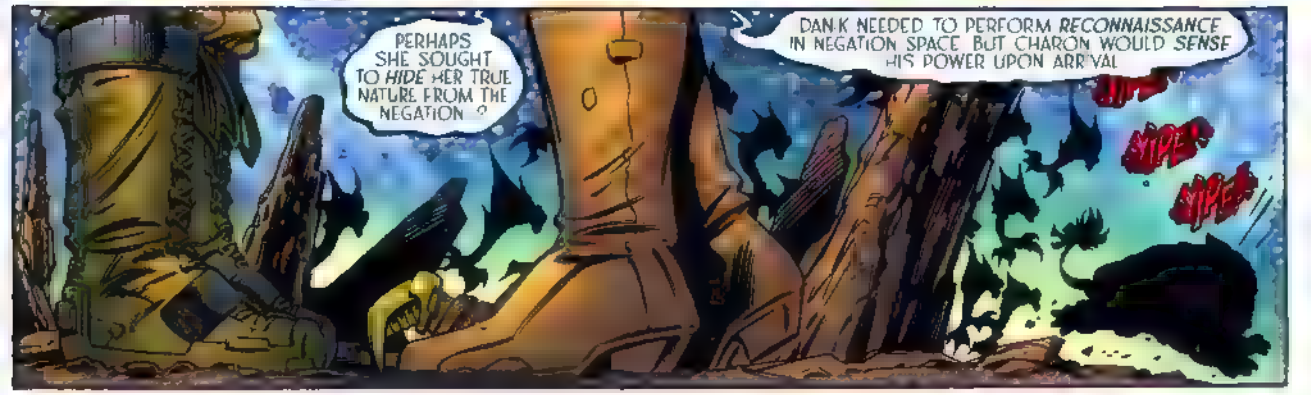
...THE MEMORIES I GLEANED FROM ZAIDA'S D.N.A. ARE FAIRLY FRAGMENTED, BUT I AM ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER THE BROAD STROKES...
...AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT ZAIDA IS NOT THE ORDINARY FARM GIRL SHE CLAIMS TO BE.

WE PRETTY MUCH KNEW THAT ALREADY...
SHE IS, IN FACT, SOME KIND OF...ASPECT OF ANOTHER BEING... A VERY POWERFUL BEING...
...AN ENTITY CALLED DANIK...
RRRRR


"THIS 'DANIK' WAS ORIGINALLY FROM ATLANTIS, LIKE GAMMID AND CORRIN.
"HE FORESAW A TERRIBLE THREAT THAT WOULD ONE DAY IMPERIL OUR ENTIRE UNIVERSE. I THINK IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT HE FORESAW THE NEGATION.
"SO DANIK HELPED CREATE SIGIL-BEARERS, LIKE DRAKE AND SHASSA. THEY WERE INTENDED TO UNITE AS AN ARMY AGAINST CHARON'S INVASION.
"DANIK SOMEHOW... SPLIT OFF DIFFERENT... VERSIONS OF HIMSELF TO TRAIN AND COUNSEL THE SIGIL-BEARERS...
"...THEY LIVED ENTIRE LIVES AMONG THEIR CHARGES, GUIDING THEM TO FULFILL THEIR DESTINIES..."

SO WE'RE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF A WAR BETWEEN UNIVERSES—
AND THE WHOLE TIME YOU'RE SOME KIND OF COSMIC TOP BRASS IN DISGUISE AND YOU NEVER THINK TO MENTION IT TO US?
I SWEAR I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S TALKING ABOUT, MISTER KAINE!
I DID GROW UP ON A FARM! I REMEMBER IT ALL!
I BELIEVE HER
SHE DID LIVE A LIFE AS AN ORDINARY HUMAN. SHE SIMPLY CANNOT REMEMBER WHAT SHE WAS BEFORE THAT
I THINK THIS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH HER UNIQUE CONDITION

WELL?
WHAT CONDITION?
YIPE!
SHE AND THE CHILD ARE ACTUALLY ONE DANIK AVATAR SPLIT IN TWO
BUT WHY?
WHAT REASON COULD THERE BE TO BREAK YOURSELF APART SO COMPLETELY YOU FORGET WHO YOU ARE?


PERHAPS SHE SOUGHT TO HIDE HER TRUE NATURE FROM THE NEGATION?
DANIK NEEDED TO PERFORM RECONNAISSANCE IN NEGATION SPACE. BUT CHARON WOULD SENSE HIS POWER UPON ARRIVAL
YIPE!
YIPE!

SO HE GET AN ASPECT OF HIMSELF GET KIDNAPPED BY THE NEGATION
AND THE MOMENT SHE CROSSED THE DIMENSIONAL BARRIER, ZAIDA GAVE BIRTH TO MEM! SHE MASKED HER TRUE IDENTITY BY SPLITTING T INTO TWO INNOCUOUS COMPONENTS
THAT REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING FROM MY ARMY DAYS
THE REBELS ON TAN CHIZA USED TO SMUGGLE COMPOSITE EXPLOSIVES.
THEY'D TRANSPORT TWO INERT CHEMICALS SEPARATELY, SO IF YOU SEARCHED A FREIGHTER YOU WOULDN'T FIND ANYTHING DANGEROUS
BUT IF YOU MIXED THOSE TWO
YIPE!
MOVE! WE'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO RECOMBINE YOU LATER!
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "RECOMBINE"?

KOMPTIN, DID YOU *HEAR* ME?
YOU KNOW, THE WAY YOU *TUNE OUT* LIKE THAT, I'M STARTING TO HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT YOUR MENTAL FACULTIES.
DO I HAVE TO REPORT THIS TO KRYZORR, OR WILL YOU *STRAIGHTEN UP?*
mmm
SIR! WE'RE RECEIVING A TRANSMISSION FROM THE *THRONE-WORLD!*
A PRIORITY BROADCAST IS ABOUT TO PREEMPT ALL COMM-CHANNELS THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE!
GREETINGS, CITIZENS AND SERVITORS OF THE NEGATION.
TODAY I BRING YOU ***MOMENTOUS*** NEWS, THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NOT BEEN HEARD SINCE THE *FOUNDING* OF THE EMPIRE, TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO...

TODAY, WE COMMENCE THE FULL-SCALE INVASION OF A SEPARATE QUANTUM REALITY WE CALL THE "BRIGHT UNIVERSE."
AT LAST
LIKE OUR UNIVERSE... IT, TOO, SHALL BE PACIFIED AND ENLIGHTENED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF NEGATION.
POOR SAPS'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT 'EM
SPECIALLY RECALIBRATED JUMP GATES HAVE BEEN STAGED IN EVERY GALACTIC SECTOR ACROSS THE IMPERIUM.
ALL BATTLE GROUPS AND RESERVE UNITS ARE REPORTING TO THE NEAREST JUMP GATE NODE AND PREPARING TO CROSS OVER.
MY GENERALS WILL BRIEF THEM ON ATTACK PLANS AND COORDINATE WITH MY LAWBRINGERS DURING THE INVASION.
BUT BEFORE WE PROCEED, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU OUR SECRET WEAPON IN THE CONQUEST TO COME...

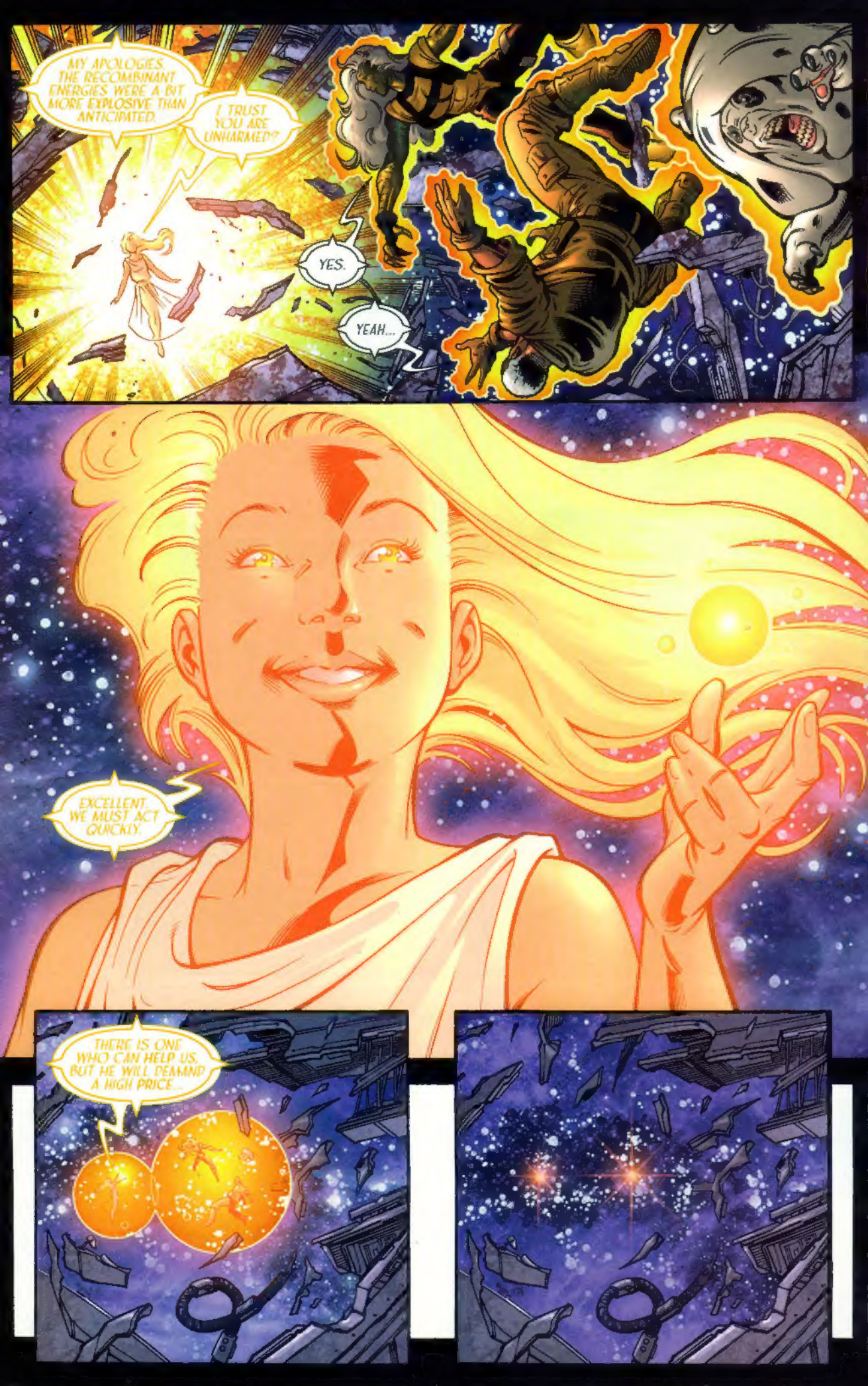
...OUR ESTEEMED ALLY--
--AND NEW IMPERIAL CONSORT...
...WAR-CONSUL EVINLEA.

WHAT?!?
CITIZENS OF THE NEGATION, I COME FROM A PEOPLE KNOWN AS THE FIRST
NO! HE CAN'T DO THIS! HE CAN'T PUT HER IN CHARGE!!
PLEASE SIT DOWN! YOU'RE DESTABILIZING THE AIRCRAFT!
WE CREATED THE UNIVERSE YOU ARE ABOUT TO INVADE
SPECIALIST KOMPTIN! BACK IN YOUR SEAT! THAT'S AN ORDER!!
THE FIRST ARE THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS YOUR EMPIRE HAS EVER ENCOUNTERED
GRAAAHH!!
WITH DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES ON THE ORDER OF YOUR INFAMOUS LAWBRINGERS
KOMPTIN--!
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO BEST BRING THEM DOWN, ONE BY ONE
WHILE MINIMIZING YOUR OWN LOSS OF LIFE
KOMPTIN, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?

IT SHALL SADDEN ME TO SEE MY BRETHREN GO TO THEIR DEATHS
BUT THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING
AND WHERE A PANTHEON OF GODS SERVED THE OLD ORDER WELL
THERE SHALL NOW BE ONLY ROOM FOR ONE GOD
CHARON
AND FOR SHE WHO SITS AT HIS RIGHT HAND

IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU *BELIEVE* ME ZAIDA
BECAUSE I *KNOW* AS SURELY AS I STAND BEFORE YOU THAT WHAT I'M TELLING YOU IS *TRUE*
WHEN DANIK WHEN *YOU* DECIDED TO SPLIT YOURSELF LIKE THIS, YOU *PLANTED* A POST HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION IN YOUR OWN MIND
A *PASSWORD* THAT WOULD REMIND YOU WHO YOU ARE AND *TRIGGER* YOUR REUNIFICATION
BUT *YOU* MUST SAY IT, AND YOU MUST *BELIEVE!*
THE WORD IS "CROSSGENESIS"
...
CROSSGENESIS

CWOSSGENESIS!


MY APOLOGIES. THE RECOMBINANT ENERGIES WERE A BIT MORE EXPLOSIVE THAN ANTICIPATED.
I TRUST YOU ARE UNHARMED?
YES.
YEAH...
EXCELLENT. WE MUST ACT QUICKLY.
THERE IS ONE WHO CAN HELP US, BUT HE WILL DEMAND A HIGH PRICE...

FWASH!
WHERE THE HELL *ARE* WE, ZAIDA?
ARE YOU EVEN "ZAIDA" ANYMORE...? OR "MEMI"...?
CALL ME *ZAMIDA* NOW.
I *RECOGNIZE* THIS PLACE! JAVI AND HIS NEGATION SIGIL-BEARERS *CAME* HERE...!
IT'S IN THE *MEMORIES* I ABSORBED FROM THE REPTILIAN...
I KNOW.
FORGIVE ME FOR RIFLING THROUGH YOUR MIND, BUT WHEN I CAME UPON THOSE STOLEN MEMORIES, I KNEW WE NEEDED TO COME *HERE*...
...BECAUSE I KNOW CHARON'S SECRETS. *AND* I KNOW HOW TO GET YOU *HOME*.
KAINE, MEET THE GREATEST *ENEMY* THE NEGATION EVER FACED...

...THIS IS APPOLYON.
I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU FOLKS WOULD NEVER GET HERE!
Be here next month as the Negation Empire and the CrossGen Universe begin their final conflict in
NEGATION WAR: PART ONE!